



VOLUME 9 NUMBER 4

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1987

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 35¢

STOWE'S WAGON TRAIN ROLLS AGAIN

by Beverly denOuden

Some of the people heading up to Burnt Hill on this crystal clear autumn morning have been on the road with their horses for four days. The contingent of people and animals from Williamstown and Clarksburg started their ride on Thursday morning, the 24th. They came as an assorted lot from gritty youngsters to grizzled old-timers; majestic sleek Percherons to single humble donkey.

The party they met at the Heath Fairgrounds on Friday night only added to the variety and spice of things for there were individuals from New Hampshire, Connecticut, Vermont, Pennsylvania, New York, Indiana and, of course, many parts of Massachusetts. In total, Saturday's outing numbered 116 people and 55 horses.

David and Nikki Larabee came from Williamstown with four children and a team of Belgians. They use their horses for getting out wood and hay rides for Williams College, and each Christmas their team and wagon are one of several who offer rides around Williamstown.

Miss Clover Morris was busy with breakfast and brushing for three mares and two young fillies that came from her father's farm in Whitingham.

Ralph Blakesley from Dalton had one of the three Haflinger teams present. The others came from Ann Carey's farm in Rowe and from New London, New Hampshire.

..... continued on page 3



Peggy and Carroll Stowe with Gideon and P.K.

(Recorder photo by Bob Stern)

STRATEGIC PLANNING GRANT AWARDED

by Susan Wright
Shared Administrative Assistant

In July the town's Board Of Selectmen, Planning Board and Planning Task Force applied for a state grant through the Strategic Planning Program of the Executive Office of Communities and Development. The proposal requested \$28,000 to implement a year long project focusing on growth management planning. The Town has just received word that their proposal was one of 33 funded from a pool of about 100 applicants. The Franklin County Planning Department also applied for a Strategic Planning grant to deal with agricultural and forest land preservation and this was also funded.

Heath received \$20,000 for the year long project. The grant application was put together by the Planning Board and Task Force with the assistance of Gwen Hallsmith, Franklin County Planner, and Susan Wright. The grant application outlined the need for planning in the Town of Heath and highlighted characteristics that make the need for planning important: Heath's population has increased 77% in the past 20 years and in the past two years by 17%. At the same time the number of active farms in Heath has declined by 80% in the last 20 years. In 1967 there were 18 active farms and two blueberry farms in town on approximately 3000 acres of land. Today there are only two active farms and two blueberry farms on about 675 acres of land.

Until 1985, Heath averaged 6.6 permits per year for new dwelling units. In 1986 18 permits for new dwelling units were issued. Over the past several months 31 perc tests were conducted of which 21 passed perc and 10 were rejected. Of the 21 that passed, 20 were for new dwelling units.

There are other indicators of growth such as an increase in the number of school age children, increasing school budgets, skyrocketing housing prices and the overall desirability of Franklin County as a place to live. Heath's growth has generally been incremental development on lots fronting on town roads so the impact has been diffused throughout the town.

The reason for the Strategic Planning Project is to help the town determine how growth should occur so that town resources can keep pace with development. This project will not be able to make Heath stay the way it is. All the planning in the world could not keep development from occurring, and that is not always a desirable thing anyway. This project will focus on how growth can be controlled so that development will occur in a positive way.

..... continued on page 3

LETTERS

To the Editors:

For the third time, I will be leaving these hills. I really don't believe that, at my age, I will ever pack again and move.

Memories of the years I've spent in this glorious land will remain with me always. To the many friends I have made over the years, being here has been a beautiful experience with many wonderful memories. Leaving saddens me.

And so to all of my many friends I bid a fond farewell. Memories of Heath will remain with me always. It has been a wonderful experience with many lasting memories. And so I bid you all a fond farewell.

MARION K. PATERSON
East Charlemont

[Mrs. Paterson lived for many years in Heath in a house across from the present Roger Clark place in the Center which burned in 1948. She has been living more recently in the Red Rose Apartments in East Charlemont and has just moved to Virginia to be near her son, Bruce.]

HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph Dickinson, Observer
for Mass. Water Resources Commission

August precipitation was 3.80 inches; September precipitation was 7.71 inches.

Total precipitation for January through September 1987 was 39.7 inches.

The rainfall in August was about average. In September we had more rain than usual bringing our precipitation for the first nine months of the year to above the average for the past 20 years.



HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

Volume 9 Number 4 October/November 1987

Editorial Staff	Pegge Howland Caroline Smith
Staff Reporters	Beverly denOuden Edith Royer Susan Silvester Alli Thane
Advertising Circulation & Business Typography	Ray Pettengill Terry Pettengill Newland Smith

The HEATH HERALD is published six times a year in April, June, August, October, December and February.
SUBSCRIPTION RATE - One year, \$3.50 (payable in advance by check or money order)
ADVERTISING RATES - Display ads: \$3.50 per column inch (Discounts on six or more insertions)
 Classified ads: \$1.00 per line.
 Send all correspondence to Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

LETTERS

To the People of Heath:

We are lucky to live in a truly wonderful town with access to a public library, post office and community hall, all within easy reach. However, without donations or higher property taxes, these buildings have basically no maintenance monies available and depend almost entirely upon public interest to keep them functioning.

When the town's population was made up of farmers who out of necessity depended upon each other, a community building, such as the Community Hall, made some sense and work-bees could be gotten together to maintain it. Many women did not go out to work then and were able to make time between chores to raise money for the Hall by giving dinners on a regular basis. That is how the tables and chairs were purchased, through many hours of hard work and donated time.

Now, more and more men and women are working out of town, and the community feeling seems to be disappearing. A town without a community needs no community hall. It is easy to blame the preschool for the loss of interest in the Hall; however, many will remember the state of the building when the preschool moved in and, for the work they have done, I'm sure we are all grateful.

At this time, the Hall serves certain age groups: one out of every 10 families in Heath has a child in the preschool, Ladies Aid meets there every other Thursday, there are square dances two Saturdays a month and the food coop meets once a month. Other than that and an occasional funeral or wedding, the building stands empty. I would like to see the Hall used by all ages - basketball games begun again upstairs (with proper window and overhead light protection), community breakfasts and suppers, plays, concerts and dances - what a wonderful space to have available.

For the last few years, the Hall Committee has had the reputation of being janitors and workmen for the Hall with no pay and little thanks. Now no one wants to become a member - no surprise there! I would like to suggest a new purpose for the Hall Committee - that they be a group of older and young people who work together to overcome any division in the town by organizing community events at the Hall, and so dispel this feeling of isolation in our rapidly changing world.

KAREN BROOKS
Community Hall Committee

* * * *

Come to the Special Town Meeting October 20

* * * *

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Wagon Train continued from Page 1

As I chatted with Ken Demers on Saturday morning, a gray haired woman came up, introduced herself and added, "I'm from New York." Ken returned, "Now, you look smarter than that." No offense meant, no offense taken; they had both been on wagon rides before.

I met this same woman at the Charlemont Country Store on Saturday afternoon. She was a bit sore but very happy with her ride. She was also back on the wagons Sunday morning.

The Fairgrounds served the party well as hostel Saturday night. The couple from Indiana, owners of a meat packing plant, came with two coolers full of smoked pork chops, bacon and sausages, so there was a feedbag for more than just the horses. Singing and yarn spinning were accompanied by the spoons, a saw and bow, the guitar and a banjo.

Special thanks to Chris Pratt and her friend from Northampton for sharing their fine photographs with the HEATH HERALD. And, above all, congratulations to the indispensable Peggy and Carroll Stowe on the success of their 7th successive annual Wagon Train.

Plans are already underway for Wagon Train 1988.



On the Trail

(Photo by Dave Lynch)



Riding the Wagon Train

(Photo by Dave Lynch)

Grant continued from Page 1

The specific objectives of this project are: 1) To review the town's zoning bylaws and propose changes that will promote the preservation of open space and agricultural land, economic development, affordable housing and water resources protection. 2) To conduct a public education effort aimed at increasing the level of participation and support for growth management planning and to help people understand and be part of the process of planning for the future of the town. 3) To identify and map out town resources so that the decision-making boards will have an adequate technical base on which to make land use decisions.

The project proposes a unique public participation approach that is feasible in a town the size of Heath. To start off the planning process, neighborhood meetings will be scheduled. Local people will be asked to host kitchen meetings and have neighbors attend so that the Planning Board, Task Force and consultant can meet with small groups to explain the process and solicit ideas. In addition to these meetings, public meetings for the entire town will be held and also formal public hearings. Also a newsletter will be published at least once every two months detailing the progress of the grant activities and giving information on the times and places for meetings.

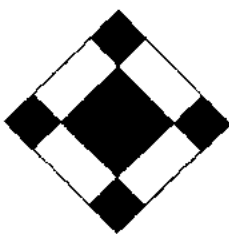
The final results of the project will be recommended revisions to the Zoning Bylaws which reflect the concerns of the town to provide economic development opportunities, to preserve the town's rural character, to allow for affordable housing development and to protect the town's water resources.

The project will probably get underway in January of 1988. A consultant for the project must be selected and that will be done by the Planning Board, Task Force and Board of Selectmen. This is an important project for the Town of Heath as it is a chance that not all towns have: a chance to plan before rather than after.



7th Wagon Train Starts Out

(Photo by Dave Lynch)



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PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by Bob Dane, Secretary

At our meeting on August 3 we voted unanimously to adopt our revised Subdivision Regulations with the amendments suggested at our public hearing of July 20. Copies of these Subdivision Regulations are available at the Town Office.

With this task completed we are ready to begin our next project, revision and update of our Zoning Bylaws. Word reached us this week that we will receive the Strategic Planning Grant which we applied for in July. We are the only town in Franklin County to receive a grant from this program. The competition was very tough, and we were awarded the grant because of our superior application, our recent spurts of growth, and to our recent record of Planning Board actions (i.e. revision of Subdivision Regulations, formation of a Planning Task Force to study growth, and our survey of public opinions on planning issues). We would like to thank Susan Wright and Gwen Hallsmith for their excellent job putting together the application for us.

This Strategic Planning Grant will be used to fund a professional consultant to help us in the process of Zoning Bylaw revision. This will include; mapping of the Town to help determine areas which are conducive to development and those which are not, formulating new Zoning Bylaws which will include updated zoning practices (such as Phased Growth and Development Scheduling, Cluster Zoning, Agricultural Preservation Districts, and greater Natural Resource Protection), and organizing a public education process to inform the public of new zoning practices and to get them involved in the update of the bylaws.

A letter to the Planning Board, signed by a large number of Heath citizens, was received in September. This letter indicates the concern over our rapid growth and need for revision of our zoning bylaws.

The interim report of the Planning Task Force was also received confirming the need for a long range plan for our town.

In other related business we recommended to the Selectmen that they limit the time that perc tests may be done to two of the wetter months of the year. We feel that this is one means of slowing the rapid growth we are now experiencing.

CITIZENS CONCERNED OVER ZONING

The very rapid growth in building throughout Heath during the past year prompted a group of Heath citizens to write the following letter to the Planning Board on September 10 expressing their concern over the effects on the rural environment in the town and making a recommendation for immediate action. This letter was signed by almost 60 citizens of the town.

Dear Members of the Board:

Representing a large number of concerned citizens of Heath, we heartily support the time and effort of the Planning Board in its continued work after having completed the recent revision of our Subdivision Bylaws. However, we are greatly alarmed by the extremely rapid, haphazard growth in housing in our community, especially during the past year. We are therefore writing to your Board with a recommendation for immediate action in revising the Heath Zoning Bylaws.

We are glad to know that the Planning Board has applied for State grant money to hire a professional planning consultant since the expertise and experience of such a person could be of considerable benefit to the Town. However, we realize that grant applications take some time to be processed and be implemented. And the success of our grant application cannot be assumed. Thus it could be a year or more before any real planning in the form of revised zoning bylaws are formulated. Meanwhile "helter-skelter" growth and building continues along our main town roads, destroying much of the rural environment which has attracted so many to Heath and which we all wish to maintain.

Since several of our neighboring towns already have effective zoning bylaws in place, it seems logical that Heath could take advantage of these by immediately reviewing them with consideration to tailoring the same principles to our town. In this way much time could be saved and at least a preliminary draft could be ready for review by a professional consultant or, if we fail to get the state grant, by the County Planner.

As the present rapid growth points to the urgency of the situation, we recommend this immediate action, so that the town can grow in a more orderly manner with plans that will protect the environment and property values of Heath.

Sincerely yours,

Citizens for Orderly Growth in Heath



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PERMITS AND PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The rise in building permits was the subject of a letter submitted to the Planning Board by a group of concerned citizens. Earl Gleason noted at the recent Round Table meeting that five building permits have been issued since July of this year - three for vacation homes and two for permanent residences. He said three dwelling permits were issued in FY 87 and 18 in FY 86.

Property transfers in Heath for September were as follows:

Joseph Donohue of W. Springfield to JoAnne Joubert of Ludlow, Mohawk Estates, Lot 37, \$2200.

Frederick Provost of Warwick to Daniel Morgan of Holyoke, Route 8A, \$28,500.

Edward Kelly of Granby to Raymond Cormier of Chicopee, Shawnee Drive, Lots 50 and 51, \$3500.

James Hirschberg of Agawam to Eric Maslak of South Hadley, Mohawk Estates, Lots 4 and 5, \$6500.

Paul Lemelin et al to Joseph Almeida of Somers, CT, Ben Road, Lot C, \$15,000.

Lucia Finck to Bruce Phillips of Clinton, Route 8A, \$123,000.

Robert Bagdis of West Hartford, CT, to Barry Bradbury, Pelham Rd., Lot 23C, \$71,000.

Shirley Freeman of Springfield to John Poirier of Avon, CT, Cascade Rd., Lot 4, \$3250.

Chester Gorski of Chicopee to Edward Rauh of Springfield, Flagg Rd., Lots 7 and 8, \$4000.

William Clark and Brenda Clark of Greenfield to Brenda Clark, Branch Hill Road, \$1.

Joyce Thompson to William Clark, Branch Hill Road, \$1.

William Clark and Brenda Clark of Greenfield to William Clark, Branch Hill Road, \$1.

David Knott to Martin Gold of Buckland, Knott Road, \$41,500.

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PLANNING TASK FORCE SUBMITS REPORT

by David Howland, Chairman

This past week word was received from the State that Heath has received tentative award of a Strategic Planning Grant to help design and implement a Master Plan for Heath. This is good news because the Planning Task Force has been working on the project this past year and had determined that professional assistance was necessary if it was to do a work of enduring quality.

To bring the townspeople up to date about its efforts an interim report, recommending immediate action, was prepared and submitted to the Planning Board in September. Since the essence of this report is summarized in the accompanying article by Susan Wright on the Strategic Planning Grant it is not reprinted here. The complete report, however, is available in the town library.

1980 PROBLEM STILL A CONCERN

by Alli Thane

The people of Heath are anxiously discussing the recent large increase in houses and population of the town. In glancing through old issues of the HEATH HERALD it is evident that this discussion started way back in the August/September 1980 issue:

Population Explosion in Heath

Preliminary figures from the 1980 census indicate the population of Heath has increased 26% in the past 10 years to 484 people. If Heath continues to grow at this rate, it will exceed its earlier peak population of 1199 (reached in 1830) by the year 2020 !

Are we getting there and how much have we accomplished in seven years to meet this problem?

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Patrick Venneri, Chairman
Heath School Committee

This will be one of the most important articles I will have written for the HEATH HERALD. The three issues I want to discuss with the Heath townspeople are: 1) The transportation problems besetting Heath; 2) The long range educational plans for the town; and 3) The Special Town Meeting set for October 20 and the importance of an affirmative vote.

Transportation has become the single most disturbing short range problem for both the School Committee and parents of the elementary children. This year we have kindergarten children walking to meet the school bus. The problem is not even one of numbers. Rather, the issue is the demographic spread of the population. With the types of roads we have, to deal with a feeder bus is an essential component of transportation. But, because we are a co-joined system it is imperative that the feeder bus reach the regular bus at a particular time. This has become an increasingly difficult assignment. Consequently some children have to walk to designated spots in order to facilitate this involved network of transportation. That is the good news. The bad news is that the School Board, in order to be fiscally responsible to the town, has determined that next year a large portion of the children will have to walk to stops and door to door service will fast become a thing of the past. We take this drastic step very seriously. The only alternative is to put on another bus and that is prohibitively expensive. That is because it would be a Heath exclusive bus and we would have to pick up the entire cost plus gas with no reimbursements. So it is now that the residents of Heath must "bite the bullet" so to speak and prepare themselves for a less personalized transportation system. Please, if you have a problem with this, contact our Committee.

We, the School Board plus about 12 other town officers and citizens, are engaged in determining the educational needs for Heath for the next umpteen years. This plan will be pieced into the regional nine-town plan for the next umpteen years and will be presented to the state for funding. On September 30 I attended a meeting of the SBAB at GCC and the difficulties and time commitment were brought home to the nine-town representatives. It will not be an easy process. Any and all help will be appreciated. Oh, yes, to my friends who ask me periodically (very, alarmingly very periodically), will Heath try to establish its own school, the answer is a definite NO! The state would not look favorably on Heath building its own school. Therefore there would be no state reimbursement. So unless Heath is willing to totally fund this capital project this will not be one of the alternatives we will be considering. Please give us your ideas and input.

We have a Special Town Meeting on October 20. It is to authorize the MTRS School Board to borrow money to install a handicap bathroom, handicap science laboratory and an elevator in the Mohawk Trail High School. Eight of the nine towns have already passed this proposal and now it is our turn. I do not need to point out the moral or ethical reasons for the town of Heath to support this project. But just in case there are any intransigent voters out there a very practical reason is that the state will deny funding to any institution that is not in compliance with the law. We are not in compliance and that is a disgrace. Please support this proposal. And yes, next year we will have

the first wheelchair student attending the High School. I thank you in advance for your support in this most crucial matter.

Whee! Almost through. We have had a reshuffling of the School Board. I am now the Mohawk representative, Linda is in charge of the preschool and Budge is responsible for Rowe. There is an open house at the Rowe School on October 7. Everything seems to be running smoothly and we have had no complaints that I know of so far in any of the systems. To close on a positive note, I had one call from a Heath parent of a preschooler who praised "our own" Heath teacher Pam Porter. Congratulations on such a successful start for the Preschool. I will close in an 18th century manner,

Yr Most Obedient
Servant
Patrick Venneri

ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

by Susan Silvester

School opened smoothly this year despite a record number of students matriculating and the roof still not repaired. Rowe now has 111 students in grades K - 6. The cafeteria is being utilized as the sixth grade classroom, and the library has been consolidated to accommodate chairs and tables for lunchtime. Bids for the roof repair construction project were opened recently, but at the time of this writing a contract had not been awarded.

The first rehearsal for the Middle School Musical "The Wizard of Oz" was held for participating fifth and sixth graders on September 17. Rehearsals will be held every Thursday from now until the performances in early November.

The following important dates may be noted on your calendar:

Tuesday, Oct. 6	NO SCHOOL. This is a district-wide in-service day for all teachers.
Wednesday, Oct. 7	6:30 PM Question and answer session for all 4th and 5th grade parents to discuss the Cape Cod field trip.
Wednesday, Oct 7	Open House 7 - 8:30 PM
Tuesday, Oct. 13	Readathon Assembly
Mon - Fri 19-23	Multiple Scholars Readathon Gr 1-6
Tuesday, Oct. 20	Rowe School Committee Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 5	All school field trip to Sturbridge Village
Nov. 16 - 21	Grades 4 & 5 Cape Cod environmental field trip

New staff members are Barbara Kiendzior, who is teaching art, and Karen Soviecke, who will be working with Janice Lapointe in the Readiness/One room. Also Johanna Weinstein has returned from a year in Colombia, South America, where she and her family taught school and lived last year.

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HEATH PRE-SCHOOL

by Pam Porter, Head Teacher

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts and expertise of the Early Childhood Council and many parents from the Heath Preschool, Inc. Heath once again has a public school within its borders. On September 21 the new public preschool opened its doors to three and four year olds in Heath and Rowe.

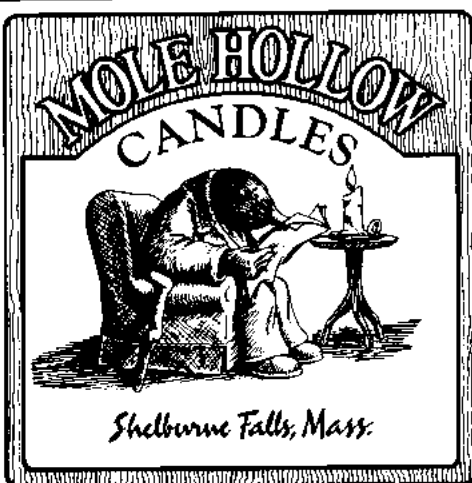
The preschool staff includes Pam Porter as head teacher and administrator, Judy Clark as teacher's aide and Ruth Fournier as senior aide. Judy and Ruth have worked with the Heath Preschool, Inc. for the past several years. Debbie Gilbert is the custodian for the preschool and Dot Lyman is its administrative assistant.

In the past the preschool in Heath has been a private entity but as of this year the program is publicly funded. It will run under the authority of the Massachusetts Department of Education and the Heath School Committee. A state grant was awarded to fund the program (no Heath taxes are involved) and, because Heath and Rowe children attend elementary school together, the grant was written to include children from both towns in the program. All Heath and Rowe three and four year olds are eligible to attend the new preschool, tuition free.

The program is conceived as one that will address young children's developmental needs while placing "particular emphasis on children's relationship to their community and their natural environment." This means that, weather permitting, you may see a lot of the children as they explore the countryside around Heath Center and make visits to people and places in Heath and Rowe.

There are 24 children enrolled in the program, 21 from Heath and three from Rowe. School is in session at the Community Hall Monday through Wednesday with morning and afternoon sessions each day. Thursday is a day for administration and planning.

The staff will work that day at the Town Hall where the school has office space. If you have questions about the program or a child you would like to enroll, you may call the school Monday - Wednesday at 337-4734 or Pam at home 337-4093.



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MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Tanja Davin, Junior

A full month of school at Mohawk has been completed. Students have become acquainted with their classrooms and teachers and after-school athletic and musical programs have been meeting on a regular basis. In all, this season looks very promising.

Mohawk has two exchange students this year. Sven Thelen from Sweden and Keiko Miyako is from Japan. Sven is staying with Mrs. Elsie Mayer in Buckland and Keiko, our AFS student, is living with the Vetter family in Greenfield. We heartily welcome them to our school and our country.

This year our student government officers are: Tim Campbell, President; Chuck Johnson, Vice President; Jen Johnson, Secretary; and Amy Roberts, Treasurer. The two student representatives to the Board of Education are James Taylor and Tammy Plesnar with Tracy Sliwa as an alternate.

The annual Middle School Musical is the Wizard of Oz. In preparation for a trip to Florida the music department at Mohawk is beginning fund raising with a Musicthon to take place in November and a giant tag sale/pie bake-off. The Foreign Travel Club will visit Spain this year, also during the April vacation when the band and chorus are in Florida.

There have been a number of changes in the school concerning enrollment. There are more than 50 new students in the school.

The annual Booster Day activities will take place on Saturday, October 17, with a home football game against Palmer. The traditional bonfire and pep rally will take place on Friday before the game.

FIRST DAYS AT MOHAWK

by Valerie Belval, Grade 7

Scared as we were, we all were ready for that first day at Mohawk High in our new duds. Nervously we waited for the bus - some of us were out waiting more than an hour, and there weren't too many smiles on the bus. Everyone seemed to be wondering what was in store for them when the bus stopped at the BIG school.

Well - - - we found all our classrooms, we learned our locker combinations, learned to be organized and on time. The best thing we learned was that it was easier than our ABC's and we are all learning more and more.

A different school can be as good as the one we all remember so well, and it need not be scary at all.

I wish good luck to all the seventh graders.

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NEWS FROM THE ACADEMY

by Academy Staff and Students

The Academy at Charlemont has opened school with a record enrollment of 78 students. The 7th and 10th grades have the highest enrollments, with 16 and 17 students respectively. The only student from Heath this year, however, is ninth grader Heather Gruen.

Activities are in full swing for the new year. Elections have been held for student representatives to the Honor, Academic and Steering Councils, as well as Ombudsmen in the junior and senior schools. Soccer is well under way; the opening game for the senior co-ed team was a win of 2-1 over Wilmington High School. Games are coming up soon for the junior and girls' teams.

Shakespeare and Company of Lenox make their annual visit early this year, arriving on October 19 and remaining through October 22. Part of their work this year will be coaching an advanced group of drama enthusiasts as they prepare selected scenes from Shakespeare for presentation in our area elementary schools.

Workmen have been busy as well on our Oddfellows Hall. Since late summer they have been repairing, insulating, weatherproofing and painting the building. As they finished their work in late September, the 85 year old edifice stood proudly at the entrance to the campus.

With so many projects underway, everyone anticipates an exciting year.



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AGNES GINGRAS WINS HERALD CONTEST

In placing her first subscription to the HEATH HERALD at the Fair on August 15, and closely estimating the total attendance at the 3-day Fair, Agnes Gingras of Colrain Brook Road won the \$50 award given by this paper.

Agnes' estimate of 8500 people attending was only 420 off the 8040 official attendance announced by the Fair Committee. Other entries in the contest ranged from 2685 to 9800 with Jim Coursey coming in a very close second with his estimate of 8501 attending.

LAWRENCE S. SMITH

Lawrence Seymour Smith of Jacksonville died on August 12, as the result of an automobile accident earlier in Northfield.

He was born in Heath in 1908 in the the house now owned by Michael and Janice Brown on Route 8A. He was the son of William and Marie Smith and attended schools in Heath.

Mr. Smith had served as a rural mail carrier for 55 years with his routes originating from the Jacksonville Post Office. At the same time he had also worked as a milk carrier, grain and coal distributor and for 20 years was employed at Kendall Mills in Griswoldville. His wife Jessie (Flanders) was once a teacher at the Branch School in North Heath.

LARRY'S

of Shelburne Falls

CLOTHING



FOOTWEAR



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THE TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS

by Alastair Maitland

We are a fast-growing community. We know this from our own day-to-day observation, which is confirmed by the statistical data appearing elsewhere in this issue. And the developers are already at work in our midst.

What does this portend for the future of our town? And how should we react, if at all?

Over the past two decades and more, as the effects of the inexorable decline of our dairy farms were becoming more and more apparent and the winds of uncertain change were making themselves felt, it seemed to many that a cherished way of life might soon be at risk. This concern found expression in a number of ways, most notably in the 1978 Report on Heath's natural resources, in which we were told that the townspeople's primary goal was the preservation of the "small rural-community aspects of Heath."

The same concern was re-stated, in dramatic form, in Edward Calver's 1985 Bicentennial play, "Now and Then," which offered us a social analysis of our town. For all our diversity, Calver showed, we have something fundamental in common. Whether we are native sons or daughters, or "summer visitors" of varying degree of permanence, we Heathens are profoundly attached to our town. And we want it to stay pretty much the way it is.

However, if there is fairly general agreement on ends, how about the means?

Can we agree that the first and essential (and urgent) step must be to equip ourselves with whatever powers are needed to shape the town's growth in conformity with our own collective preferences rather than the particular interests and requirements of outside developers? To do so will certainly entail a pretty comprehensive re-vamping of our zoning bylaws.

Can we agree further that in framing our revised zoning and land-use bylaws we must be guided and inspired by the best models available amongst those in force in other towns of Franklin County? Not to do so will leave us relatively more vulnerable to the attentions of developers who, like water, will always gravitate towards the lowest level.

Achieving agreement on the means to attain the desired ends will not be easy. The language of land-use ordinances is difficult and technicalities abound.

But, above all, there will be a need for the acceptance of a measure of restraint, on all sides.

In his celebrated 1968 essay entitled The Tragedy of the Commons the ecologist and biologist, Garrett Hardin, showed how separate farmers, reasonably assuming that an additional grazing cow or two will serve their interests and do no harm to a public pasture, will nevertheless, as an aggregate, ultimately achieve the destruction of those grounds through over-grazing. "Freedom in a commons," Mr. Hardin concluded, "brings ruin to all."

The biggest question of all is whether we shall choose to ignore the moral of Garrett Hardin's essay or, instead, to join together to avert the tragedy of the commons, here at home.

[Editors' note: Mr. Maitland is a member of the Planning Board Task Force. The views he has expressed here are his own.]

* * * *

Come to the Special Town Meeting - October 20

CHURCH NEWS

The Heath Union Church is still searching for a minister. However interim ministers will fill in until a permanent one can be found. Sunday School will start soon. All children in the area are invited and urged to join the Sunday School.

LADIES AID CHRISTMAS SALE

by Edith C. Royer

The Heath Ladies Aid Christmas Sale will be held on Wednesday, November 7, at the Community Hall from 11 AM to 3 PM.

Fancy articles, decorations and food will be on sale. Lunch will also be served. Come and look around - eat and visit with friends.

SUMMER SWIMMING PROGRAM

by Michelle Gedutis, Instructor

The following Heath children received certificates for their Red Cross swimming classes this summer at the Rowe Pond:

Beginners Class - Andrew Belitsos, Jason Clark, Amy Croteau.

Advanced Beginners Class - Ben Cerone, Keith Cerone, Max Churchill, Anna Soviecke, Donna Tanner, Nicole Rainville, Nick Soviecke.

Intermediate Class - Leroy Tanner, Jim Cerone

Swimmers Class - Betsey Silvester

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HEATH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

by John Henry, President

What a wonderful year. Who would have believed, with all those lovely days before the Fair, that it could continue right up to and through the Fair weekend? But it did! It was just one of those years.

A big "thank you" to the many local groups and individuals who worked so hard. This town is full of folks who quietly go about the routine duties that give Heath its life.

The first meeting of the new year of the Agricultural Society will be held on Monday, October 12 and you are encouraged to attend. We will take nominations for the election of officers, review finances, get reactions to this year's Fair and talk over ideas for next year.

We always meet at 7:00 on the second Monday night of each month. These meetings are open to everyone. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please come. Believe it or not, we've actually been known to have fun, too. And you can instantly claim lifetime membership in the Heath Agricultural Society - great on a resume. So please come.



Horse Pull Starts at Heath Fair

(Photo by Michael Brown)



Chainsaw Contest in Progress

(Photo by Michael Brown)

HAIL HOSMER ROAD (OXBOW EAST)

by Beverly denOuden

Welcome to four new Heath residents, Bob, Arlene, William and Allen Markert. The Markerts purchased their new home (opposite Fort Shirley) on Hosmer Road last spring and moved in on June 30.

William, 7, and Allen, 5, have been busy ever since that day exploring their new surroundings, establishing those special childhood play areas in the woods and collecting natural specimens.

The Markerts, both natives of Amherst, come most recently from Belchertown. Arlene says they simply outgrew their house there and were looking for a more peaceful setting. Hosmer Road should surely afford the quiet as Bob and Arlene came up to view the house last winter just a few days after our 25" snowfall; you could say they made an informed choice for country living.

Bob has joined the ranks of the Heath commuters. He travels daily to his position as an auto mechanic at U.Mass. Bob has been working in the motor pool for 14 years, assisting in the maintenance of approximately 300 vehicles.

Arlene is currently holding a part-time position at Food Mart but her desire is to utilize her M.A. degree in Day Care Administration. On the day of my visit, Arlene had been busy preparing for a house visit so she could be licensed for day care. Prior to their move to Heath, Arlene was working at the group day care facility at Hampshire College.

Bob and Arlene enjoy horseback riding. Their place served as a horse farm in the past, when Fritz and Roswita Daemen rebuilt the farm, so their own four horses are comfortably accommodated. Arlene still has stall space to spare and will be looking for board horses for the winter. -

It was time for parents to change jobs as I took my leave. Bob was just home from work as Arlene was preparing to leave.

We wish a warm welcome and a warm winter to this busy young family.



Ernie Thane drives his new tractor at Heath Fair

(Photo by Michael Brown)

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Susan Silvester, Secretary

The old Town House on the Common in Heath Center has been completely renovated and restored to its original quiet charm. The one story white clapboard structure, built in 1834 and leased by the Town to the Society for 199 years, has undergone major repair under the expert guidance of local contractor and Society member Bruce Cromack. Still needed are three pairs of old shutters for the east side of the Town House. These shutters should measure 16" by 60". Anyone willing to donate them should contact Sue Silvester at 337-4491 or one of the directors.

The Annual Meeting of the Historical Society was held on August 2 in the Community Hall with a traditional potluck supper preceding the meeting. Following a brief business meeting, presided over by President Michael Coe, members and guests were treated to an instructive illustrated lecture by Dr. Kevin Sweeney, Director of Academic Programs at Historic Deerfield. His topic, of great interest to local residents, was "River Gods in the Making: The Williams Family of the Western Massachusetts Frontier."

The new Curator for the Heath Historical Society is Pegge Howland of Avery Brook Road. She replaces Bill Thane who served as Curator for the past two years. Pegge has experience in the preservation of artifacts and documents; she is the Director of the Greenfield Community College Library.

On Saturday, October 10, at 10 AM the third annual joint hike with the Rowe Historical Society will take place. This year members, guests and interested members of the communities will gather at the home of Nancy and Jack Williams in Rowe and then depart by bus for the hike to Pulpit Rock for a spectacular view of the Deerfield River Valley. Good walking shoes are recommended as well as a knapsack for your picnic lunch which will be enjoyed on the Rock. The bus will transport participants from the hiking area back to the Williams' home. The rain date has been set for the following Saturday.

FLU VACCINE CLINIC

by Sharleen Moffatt, R.N.
Town Nurse

We will once again be offering free flu vaccine to all residents of the towns of Rowe and Heath on a first come first served basis. This vaccine is made available to us free of charge by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. I will hold a clinic in Heath on Wednesday, October 14th, from 9:30 to 11:30 AM at the Heath Free Library.

There will also be a clinic held in Rowe at the town hall on Thursday, October 15th, from 9:00-11:00 AM. If neither time is suited to your schedule, please call me and we can set up an alternate time. I may be reached through my office at the Rowe Elementary School. The number there is 339-4734.

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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

by Pat Leuchtman

The Friends of the Library thank all those who baked and who donated books to the Annual Book and Bake Sale during this year's Heath Fair - and to all those who took advantage of the bargains offered. Along with membership dues we took in \$236 which will go towards adding to the Library's collection of children's books.

We are also very happy to announce that John Clark has volunteered to play in a fall jazz concert on Saturday, October 17 at 7:30 PM, at the Heath Union Church. Tickets will be on sale at Peters Store for \$4 as well as at the door.

John played most recently for Heath concert goers at the June Mohawk Trail Concert at the Church. Besides being an accomplished player of the french horn, John is a composer and he treated us to several of his own compositions including Ice on Trees inspired by winter in Heath.

John is a well known jazz musician and will be joined in his concert here by New York recording artist Dave Friedman. Dave will play the vibes as he also did in the June concert at the Church. In addition, Bob Stewart will play the tuba. Bob is also well known for his work. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy an exciting evening of jazz - while we support our Library. We hope to see you and your friends on October 17.

LIBRARY LINES

by Alli Thane, Librarian

My library article this time is in the form of a call for HELP. My summer aid, Ruth Fournier, has returned to her job at the Preschool. The library continues to be a very busy place and becomes more so in the winter months. More people are reading, more young folk need help with school materials. I am rushed. My time is spent, as it should be, in helping people. This leaves little time for all the other jobs that are necessary in the library.

If anyone has a few hours to spare on Monday, Wednesday or Saturday and would like to volunteer for shelving books, filing, sorting magazines, shelf reading or cataloguing, I certainly need you. All you need to know is your alphabet!

Wednesday afternoons is children's story hour conducted by Veronica Smead. Bring your preschoolers.

The Friends of the Library have donated money and have suggested it be used for good children's reading. These books have been ordered and should be on the shelves soon.

The Springfield City Library is offering a direct reference service by phone. More about this as soon as all the details are in.



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HEATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

by Bill Lattrell, Chairman

As autumn arrives the Conservation Commission has reached its greatest level of activity since its inception three years ago. During the past month we had three requests for Determinations in regards to Wetlands, one Notice of Intent and three serious inquiries about Notice of Intent (these will be filed this fall). This is quite formidable since publication, site review, applicant consultation, public hearings and public hearing determinations are all required. All in all it averages out to between 7 to 10 hours of work per application.

Public hearings on the three Requests for Determination were held on September 15. Requests were made by Robert and Jayne Dane of Rowe Road, Charles Marney of Colrain Brook Road and Stephen and Linda Marcotte for their Sumner-Stetson property. These applications were found to have no significant impact on the wetland. In all situations the work was in the buffer zone and not situated so that siltation or other negative effects on the wetland would occur. The Public Hearing on the Notice of Intent for Albert and Elizabeth Canali was postponed because they had not yet received a DEQE file number. According to the regulations, a hearing cannot be held if a DEQE file number has not been issued.

In other activity the Heath Conservation Commission issued an Emergency Certificate to do work on the northern-most bridge on Avery Brook Road. It was discovered that further damage had occurred since the April storm and immediate repair was necessary to keep the road open.

FOREIGN TRAVEL CLUB

by Susan Silvester, Advisor

The Mohawk Trail Regional School Foreign Travel Club is going to sunny Spain for nine days during the April vacation. The guided tour starts in Madrid and ends on the coast at Malaga; included are the Prado Museum, house of El Greco, fortress of Alcazar, Gothic cathedrals of Toledo, royal palace in Madrid and much, much more. There will be time to sunbathe on the Costa del Sol and an optional additional excursion across the Straits of Gibraltar to Tangier, Morocco, by ferry to see the Sultan's Palace and shop at the Casbah.

The cost of the trip is \$799 which includes everything except personal expenses. The Club also raises money for the trip at its annual International Dinner.

The trip is open to teachers, students, parents and interested members of the community. The application deadline is early in October. More information is available at the high school library.

Gordon E. Taylor d/b/a



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COMMUNITY HALL ANNOUNCEMENTS

by Karen Brooks
Community Hall Committee

The downstairs floor has a new paint job. We are now getting together a work-bee to refinish the upstairs floor. Mike Armstrong has volunteered to buff the floor and Dennis Beaudoin has donated a buffer. We need six people to work, two per shift, rolling on polyurethane. Please call Dolly Churchill at 337-6680 or me at 337-6614 if you can help next week or the week after.

The piano has been moved from the downstairs to Art Schwenger's. Anyone who is interested in it can call me. The Preschool has purchased table and chair dollies (due to arrive soon) to make their "put away" neater and easier. Also, there has been some talk of children's artwork being inappropriate at certain types of functions. Please let us know ahead of time if we need to arrange to have it taken down.

Tables and chairs are beginning to show quite a lot of wear and tear so for the time being we will not be loaning them out.

We are looking for some elementary school parents to help us organize a Halloween party for Friday, October 30, or Saturday, the 31st. If anyone is interested please let us know.

We are looking for some new ideas for community involvement as the Letter to the Editors in this issue explains. We meet once a month.

In a change in Hall regulations, we wish to inform anyone requesting a Hall reservation to call either Dolly Churchill or Karen Brooks for making the date and fees involved.

POLICE REPORT

by Guy Silvester, Chief
Heath Police Department

Since our last article in the HEATH HERALD we have received numerous calls averaging one per day. Patrols are being conducted on a regular basis. The following types of calls have been received: domestic problems, motor vehicle problems, recreational vehicle complaints, missing persons, medical emergencies, informational calls, tenant problems.

Fall is here. We should all be conscious of any unusual vehicles around town. If you notice anything unusual, please write down the license plate number and give us a call at 339-4901.

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TOWN OFFICES MOVED

On the morning of September 30 three of our town's enterprising and courageous young women were found busy on the second floor of Sawyer Hall, cleaning out and rearranging the large front room which had not been occupied since the Hall was rebuilt in 1980. By 11 in the morning, the complete offices for the Town Clerk/Assessors' Clerk, the Town Treasurer/Tax Collector and the Town Accountant had been moved from the first floor to the new room. These included two desks, file cabinets and the computer table with the complete computer system wired up and operating. It certainly shows that they have had a good training in computer techniques as well as strong backs!

Still to be done on the second floor is the installation of wall bookshelves and the completion of the laying of the carpeted floor.

On the first floor the Selectmen are to move into the vacated office next to the Post Office, leaving the crowded Post Office to Marcella Lively and giving her some privacy.

These are welcome changes which have long been planned and which should improve the efficiency of our town government.

REPORT FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER

by Linda Marcotte

The tax bills for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1987 were mailed September 12, 1987. These bills are due in full October 11, 1987. The bill should include any payment you made based on the estimated bill issued last fall. If you expect to receive an abatement and have not received the finalized abatement form from the Assessors, I suggest you contact them as soon as possible. I would like to thank those who have already made their payment to the Town.

For personal reasons I have decided it is in the best interest of the Town to resign my position as Tax Collector effective October 31, 1987. If you are interested or know anyone who would be interested in this position, please contact the Heath Board of Selectmen.

LINDA MARCOTTE — TAX COLLECTOR

Linda Marcotte who has been Heath's Tax Collector for the past two and a half years is leaving the position for personal reasons.

Linda has performed an outstanding job in collecting back taxes and has helped the town significantly in getting back to a better financial position. She accomplished this in a short time through her own hard work and through the use of her computer.

We are glad to learn that she will continue as Town Treasurer and as a member of the Computer Committee and School Committee member. Good wishes to her and her family in building their new house.

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FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Town Clerk Karen MacDougall reminds everyone that her office is now on the second floor at Sawyer Hall where she is available Monday nights 7 to 8:30 PM and Tuesday nights 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Due to her attending an assessors' clerk training course on Wednesdays she will not be in the office on that day until November 11. If needed, however, she can be reached at home on weekdays between 4 and 7 PM at 337-4268.

Karen also reports that she is starting to revise the town voter list. According to the state law a person who is not on the town Street List cannot be a registered voter. Accordingly she is comparing these two lists and will contact those voters who are not on the street list.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise noted)

Selectmen: Tuesdays 7:15 PM
Assessors: Mondays 7 - 9 PM
Town Clerk: Mondays 7 - 8:30 PM
Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:30 PM
Wednesdays 8-11 AM (after Nov. 11)
Also call 337-4268 between 5 & 8 PM for appointment.

Town Accountant: Mondays 9 AM - 1 PM

Town Treasurer | Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays
& | 1:30 - 5 PM
Tax Collector | and by appointment, call 337-4394
Finance Committee: As posted
Planning Board: 1st Monday of Month 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 1 - 7 PM
(after Oct. 24, Wednesdays 10 AM - 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

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Richard Giard, Chairman
Heath Board of Selectmen

The 3-Town Dump Committee met on September 27 and gave a contract to Elmer Huntley Associates, of Northampton, to prepare a design for the closing of the present landfill. This includes a survey of the present site, test wells, a study of local sources of suitable clay material for the covering and a complete cost estimate for the final closing to meet the DEQE requirements. The cost of this design work will be \$14,050. Elmer Huntley's report is due to be submitted in November.

The location of the new Heath solid waste transfer station is to be the subject of a public hearing at 8:30 PM on Wednesday, October 20. A tentative location for this transfer station is adjacent to the town salt shed on Branch Hill Road.

A special town meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 20, to consider an article authorizing the Mohawk Trail Regional School to borrow money for the installation of handicap facilities in the building; also an article to allow the moderator to appoint town members to a county recycling committee.

Official notification has just been received of the award to Heath of approximately \$72,000 from the FHA for road repair arising from the flood damage. This is in addition to the \$184,000 in FEMA funds for flood damage which was previously reported, but which covers only 75% of the cost, with the state paying another 12 1/2% and the town paying the balance. In spite of much press publicity on these awards, the Selectmen are the last ones to receive any official notification of awards and so are delayed in scheduling any much needed expenditures.

So far road repair completed includes the gravel re-surfacing and paving of Burrington Hill Road, gravel repair on Avery Brook Road with new box culverts to be applied for next spring, gravel re-surface on A.L. Stetson Road, partial graveling of Sadoga Road, Long Hill Road and Rowe Road. The three new box culverts on Colrain Stage Road are to be installed next spring.

At the town garage the Road Crew has been busy getting the equipment and machinery ready for winter. At the moment the crew consists of Temporary Foreman Ray Galipo, Dohn Sherman, and Peter Smith. These have been supplemented with the addition of temporary workers Fred Lively and Dan Gleason. Applications for permanent Highway Superintendent were received through October 2 and a final selection will be made within another week.

The Selectmen wish to express their appreciation to John Churchill for his many years of good and conscientious service to the Town of Heath as Highway Superintendent. We wish him well in his new employment.

The Selectmen, also serving as the Board of Health, have voted to allow the resumption of normal perc testing. This was suspended in August due to excessively dry conditions at that time, but since those conditions no longer exist such tests are now permitted.

The Selectmen have just received the resignation of Linda Marcotte as Tax Collector as of October 31. She will continue as Town Treasurer but feels she does not have the time to devote to both jobs. As a result an interim tax collector will be appointed to serve until the town election. Anyone interested in this important position is asked to contact one of the Selectmen.

ANOTHER ROUND TABLE HELD

by Caroline Smith

Selectman Richard Giard chaired another "round table" discussion on Wednesday, September 16. Most of the town department heads together with committee representatives and a number of interested citizens joined in a very worthwhile and constructive two-hour session. Also attending was the County Planner Gwen Hallsmith. In-depth reports of a number of these committees are given elsewhere in this issue, but there seemed to be two major concerns expressed. One, presented by School Committee Chairman Venneri, was on the over-crowding of the Rowe school caused by the large number of Heath pupils now attending. The other, somewhat related concern, was over the rapid increase in building in Heath and the need for review of the present zoning bylaws.

Highway Foreman Ray Galipo reported on the work on Burrington Road and Avery Brook Road and expressed the hope of still having time to improve some of the back roads before winter.

Librarian Alli Thane told of the large increase in book circulation and of the acquisition of talking books from the Council on Aging.

Some of the best news was Fire Chief Earl Gleason's report on the recent lack of fires in town. In Police Chief Guy Silvester's report he pointed out the changing pattern of crime in town; more calls on family domestic problems with fewer calls for larceny and break-ins. He also urged the Planning Board to take action soon on town planning.

County Planner Gwen Hallsmith made some pertinent recommendations on limiting new building stating that a moratorium on building is, if not illegal, a dangerous option for the town. She turned over to the Planning Board a packet of material to assist them in their planning.

In the course of the discussion about the large number of Heath children at the Rowe School, Skip Venneri was asked about the possibility of Heath having its own elementary school. He indicated that the long range planning committee of Mohawk School District is considering the possibility of a regional elementary school.

Karen Brooks of the Community Hall Committee told of the work being done in the Hall and indicated that some older people are needed on the Committee to give a more balanced viewpoint.

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT RETIRES

John Churchill, Superintendent of the Heath Highway Department for 18 years, has retired. John, with the help of his wife Dolly, worked many long and difficult hours, through snow storms and floods as described in a previous article in the HEATH HERALD (Vol. 5, No. 6 February 1984). The reassuring sight of John on various pieces of equipment brought relief to many as he rose to any occasion in a crisis to keep the roads open. Always smiling and with a friendly wave, John will be greatly missed.

All good wishes go to John in his new work.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Earl Gleason, Chief

Emergency calls were limited to aiding the Charlemont Ambulance on a call on September 8 and aiding a victim who was transported by private car on September 12.

Fire Department activities included the Heath Fair with the chicken barbecue being held on both Saturday and Sunday this year. We sold about 500 dinners. The wheel and root beer were also successful. The First Aid booth was also manned by the Fire Department personnel. On August 29 the Department catered to the Yankee Atomic Employees' picnic. This along with the Fair is one of the major fund raisers. On September 28 the Department put on a supper for the Western Massachusetts Fire Wardens at the Community Hall. They have been coming to Heath for a meeting on the last Monday of September for about a dozen years. No Firemen's Association meetings or drills were held in August because of the Fair but they were resumed in September.

New equipment put into service recently includes a new portable radio in one of the deputies' automobile and some new shovels. This is a milestone, for to my knowledge all of the other shovels owned by the Department were cast-offs from others.

Two smoke detector inspections for property resale and four smoke detector placements for new construction were made during this period.

Two Franklin County Fire Chief retirement parties were held in August. These two chiefs served for an impressive total of 58 years. Milt Williams of Old Deerfield had been chief for 38 years and Francis Dogneri of Turners Falls for 20 years.

On August 18 the Directors of the Tri-State Mutual Aid met with the Greenfield Recorder and the Springfield Union. The purpose of the meeting was to explain and discuss the differences between the fire services and the media. A great many problems were discussed and, hopefully, resolved.

A more important meeting was held with the Franklin County Dispatch Association, Tri-State Mutual Aid Directors, Franklin County Police Association, Franklin County Ambulance Association and Wayne Melville of the County Commissioners' office to discuss the County communications problem. The Commissioners have funds available to improve the radio system to provide communication to problem areas but the Commissioners are unhappy that the computer purchased by the County is not yet in service.

The Greenfield Firefighters Union, whose members dispatch the Tri-State Mutual Aid units, refuse to work with the computer and rumors are that they are negotiating to no longer dispatch Tri-State. As the Greenfield Fire Department has provided this service since the Tri-State inception in 1949, probably someone will have to be hired to provide it. The Commissioners have a one-time fund for the equipment, but do not have the capability to raise funds for dispatching. Will try to keep you updated on developments.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by David F. Howland

This past fiscal year ended on a positive note. At the July 14 Special Town Meeting all accounts were balanced, necessary funding for the town's share of the Flood Damage FEMA Project was accomplished and \$10,000 was transferred to the Stabilization Fund. These transactions were possible because of surpluses in the Interest, Town Highway Wages, Tech School, Rowe School and Free Cash Accounts. The largest amount was for the FEMA project, \$23,069, which was paid from Equal Opportunity reimbursements from the state. This money was originally appropriated by the town to meet higher standards of per pupil expenditures. Finally, the tax bills for the last half of last year have been sent out and the rate of \$13.70 is reasonably close to our estimated projections.

As we enter the new fiscal year we expect that new state legislation will have a major impact on our finances. On July 15 the rules governing overrides were changed, the most important of which states that a majority vote is all it takes to pass the override, whereas two-thirds was necessary before. Also new rules were passed about the issuance of estimated tax bills. Now any town may utilize the estimated tax payment procedure, whether or not it is undergoing certification of full and fair valuation, so long as it can show a need to send out the bills and that there is some related valuation problem. A third important rule change is the quarterly distribution of Cherry Sheet monies rather than once a year. This should help smooth out the cash flow situation and curtail the need for borrowing.

So much for favorable news. While there isn't bad news to report at this time, we are apprehensive about the final costs for closing the dump. There is still some homework to be done on that matter. Roads, of course, will require on-going attention and educational costs are expected to continue their upward trend. However, it is too early in the year to predict how these services will affect us. We will keep you posted.

ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Heath Board of Assessors

The Assessors are glad to welcome Karen MacDougall as their clerk. She is now attending a five week course given by the Department of Revenue for assessors' clerks in Holyoke. We expect this background will be of benefit to the whole town. In addition Karen has attended a one-day seminar given by CPA of Amherst on using the new computer software which the town recently purchased.

Updating of the last revaluation list to January 1, 1987 is now almost completed. After this is finalized and with the state's approval, the first half of the FY '88 tax bills should be forthcoming within another two months.

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MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Gerri Marie was born on August 20 to Leona (Murray) and Todd Sessions of Greenfield. She is the great granddaughter of Dorothy Sessions of Heath.

Crystal Lea was born on September 15 to Sandra and Jerry McCloud of Charlemont. Crystal is the granddaughter of Evelyn and Smead Hillman of Heath.

Leighton Brooks McCutchen, son of Martha and Leighton McCutchen, will be married to Janis Katherine Proven Steele on October 10 at the McCutchen home on Jacksonville Stage Road. Janis is the daughter of Shirley Steele of Montreal, Quebec. Brooks is studying for his Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the University of California in Berkeley. Janis is on the editorial staff of the women's magazine, "Connections." They will be returning to California after the wedding.

Amy E. Driscoll of Farmington, CT, and Matthew W. denOuden of Heath were married in St. Patrick's Church in Farmington on August 8. A reception followed at the Old Farms Inn in Avon, Ct. Amy and Matthew are living in Middletown, CT. Amy is a copywriter for the advertising department at Sage-Allen and Matthew is a claims representative for the Social Security Administration. They are now living in Cromwell, CT.

Peter Brown, son of Sydney and Robert Brown, will be married to Jill Fryar on October 17 on the lawn of the Browns' Ledges Road home. Peter and Jill will live in Houston, Texas, where Peter teaches photography at Rice University and Jill is a family therapist.

Betty Gaylord, of Conway, died August 12. She was the widow of the Reverend Samuel Gaylord who was the minister of the Heath Church in the early 1930's.

David Giard, Sr., 89, died at his home on Colrain Stage Road on August 29. Survivors include six sons; Raymond of Florida, George and Donald of Colrain; John of Nebraska; James of Shelburne; and Richard of Heath, our Chief Selectman; also two daughters; Sister M. of Holyoke and Rita Lillio of West Springfield. Also surviving are 27 grandchildren and 35 great grandchildren. David farmed in Heath for many years and had worked at the Millers Falls Co. during World War II.

Hannah Burrington celebrated her 86th birthday with a surprise open house at the home of her daughter, Catherine Cromack. She was visited by many friends and relatives.

HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Since his retirement, Robert McAfee Brown has been a visiting professor at Dartmouth College and at Carleton College. Bob has completed a forthcoming book on Spirituality and Liberation.

Sydney Brown works with the Interfaith Council on Economic Justice and Work centered in Oakland, California. Sydney and Bob led a seminar together in July at Ghost Ranch, a Presbyterian Conference Center in New Mexico.

Elsa Bakalar was one of three teachers at an Elder-hostel at the Rowe Conference Center September 21 - 25. Her subject was perennial gardening in the northeast. From October 6 to 16, Elsa is taking part in a traveling symposium on "Landscaping with Perennials," which is sponsored by the New York Botanical Garden. Her talk-and-slide show is entitled "Flowers of Late Summer." The panel will be held in four cities: at the New York Botanical Garden; the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, DC; the Chicago Botanic Garden; and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University in Boston.

Tom Brown, the son of Sydney and Robert Brown, has recently completed a Master of Fine Arts in Metal Work at San Diego State University and is currently setting up a metal arts studio in San Diego.

Sharon McCutchen, daughter of Martha and Leighton McCutchen, has been working for Northern Caribbean Research in the Dominican Republic, doing drawings of under-water artifacts.

Kevin L. Pettengill, son of Terry and Ray Pettengill, will be discharged from the U.S. Air Force in November. He will be returning with his family to Heath to live.

Bob Dane will have a showing of his glass sculpture at the Holsten Gallery in Palm Beach, Florida, from November 2 to 28.

Hilma Churchill Ayers and her husband Keith have moved to Columbia, SC, where Keith is studying at the Columbia Bible School.

Guy Silvester has been appointed Director of Special Education for the Pioneer Regional School District.

Bill Lattrell, Chairman of the Heath Conservation Commission, has been accepted into the environmental studies department at Antioch/New England graduate school in Keene, NH. He is studying for a Master's Degree in resource management and administration.

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