



# HEATH HERALD

**HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 25¢****OUR SIXTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE****VOICE OF THE PEEPER**

by Lewis Nichols

In the northeast part of the country these days, there is a substitute for the Biblical voice of the turtle as a symbol of spring - the voice of the peeper. He can be heard calling from the swamps, and from the edges of sluggish brooks, and he ranks with the asparagus, the strawberry and shad roe as token of the year's best season. In some parts of the peeper country, although admittedly not in all, there is a legend about him. Whatever you may be doing when you hear the first peeper of spring, this says that you will continue to do throughout the summer. It is a bit like wishing on the evening star, and nothing but good is expected to come from it. One factor is ignored, however. The first note of the peeper as he greets a warm day is very soft, very tentative, and to hear it at all you must almost be there beside him in the swamp. Unless you wish a summer of contemplation in a swamp - there was always Thoreau - it might be well not to be overeager.

The first note aside, it always is possible to treat the first peeper like the first star, so arranging the hearing that nothing but a whole summer's good will come of it. The peeper, in fact, will be an excellent collaborator on this. Due to the cool mornings of spring, often a bit of white frost on the ground - and over the swamp - he sleeps late. Thus it is that rushing for the commuting train or bus it will not be necessary to hear him. The morning depression is bad enough on its own, without being warned by hearing the first song of the peeper, that every morning the summer through will be spent in going to work. At twilight, after he has basked in the sunshine of a warm day, the peeper is in good voice. He is lyrical and gay, and who would not be with the message he carries? No one will mind it at all if he is expected to spend the entire summer coming home from work, particularly if the first peeper picks his shots well and first gives voice on a pay day. A pay day and promotion day are the sign of an extraordinarily alert peeper but, alas, this has been a runny sort of spring, and there seem to be few of the alert kind around.

Many a legend can be regarded as just an old wives' tale, and in a scientific era can be dismissed as so much foolishness. Do not put the peeper's first song in this category, any more than the evening's first star. Better, indeed, to make preliminary arrangements that the peeper be heard at everyone's best, thus playing it safe on all sides. It would be a dismal peeper who is heard by a motorist on his way to traffic court.

... continued on page 12

**SELECTMEN'S OPEN HOUSE****TO BE HELD APRIL 30**by Anne Steinbock, Chairman  
Heath Board of Selectmen

The Heath Selectmen will hold an open house on Monday, April 30, at the Community Hall, a week before the regular annual town meeting day of May 7. This will follow immediately after a public hearing on revenue sharing proposals to be held at 7PM at the Community Hall.

The purpose of the open house is to acquaint the citizens of Heath with the workings of the town departments and committees, the direction the town is going, and for the town officials to gather information from people of the town. It will also be a time to meet new neighbors and see old ones that have been hidden under the snow all winter.

It is expected that all department heads and town committees will be present to explain the various tasks they perform, as well as to explain items in their budget or articles on the warrant. Copies of the warrant will be available, and it is expected that the Annual Town Report will also be distributed at that time. It will be an informal occasion with ample opportunity for everyone to participate in talking to the town officials and putting their two cents worth in. It is hoped there will be a large turnout to participate in the discussion and to enjoy the refreshments.

Children are welcome and we would like to see high school people attend. Citizens may register to vote at this open house, although the deadline will have passed for voting eligibility at the annual town meeting (deadline is April 17). Dog licenses may also be purchased at this time.

**FRIENDLY "SKUNKIN"**

Grace Crowningshield took this picture of her friend who for two years has come to her barn to drink milk from the cats' dish

## Timothy G. Smith 1924 - 1984

Our good neighbor Timothy Smith has gone. He slipped away as quietly as he had lived giving no trouble or care to anyone. He gave more than he received. We will all miss his cheery wave or friendly chat when meeting him on his daily walks. Tim was very fond of his house and grounds. Even on the hottest summer day he would be out in full sun trying to beautify that "awful highway", as he bemoaned it. He transplanted lilacs and day lilies, which with the loving care at the time of planting seemed to thrive and indeed soften the edges of that "awful highway", as he bemoaned it. He was a great reader, maintaining an interest in many fields. In conversation he was always a good listener and contributed pertinent views of his own, often blended with dry humour.

We are grateful for such a good neighbor and will greatly miss him.

## HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph Dickinson, Observer  
for Mass. Water Resources Commission

February precipitation was 7.11 inches; snowfall was 16 inches. March precipitation was 5.69 inches; snowfall, 45 inches.

The precipitation for the first quarter of 1984 is 15.16 inches. This is less than last year, but much above the average for the same period.

The average annual snowfall over the past 15 years has been 93 inches. Total snowfall this season has been 112 inches, and we will in all probability get additional snow in April.

## 1785 HEATH 1985

## HEATH HERALD

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## LETTERS

To the Editors:

About the year 1975 Life Magazine came out with a special edition several years after regular publication of the magazine had ceased. The focus of that special edition was to capture life in America on one day in early September of that year picturing what Americans of various life styles and occupations were doing that day.

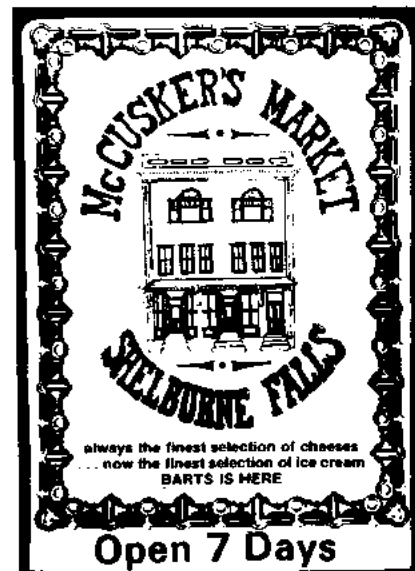
Also with pictures they recalled some world history in that edition. There was one picture that has been an inspiration to me in terms of the value of freedom and the need to work unceasingly to preserve it. The picture was of an emaciated old man who had attempted to escape from a Nazi concentration camp by digging under the wood sill of the building. The picture taken from the sunny outside shows the man tightly squeezed between the sill and the ground - dead! But even in death the expression of determination to be free could be seen in his face.

This was one of the motivating factors for me when I sought and was elected selectman in 1979. Last year I challenged Selectman Anne Steinbock because she did not respond to the issues concerning culvert pipe policy (documented in my letter in the April/May issue of the HEATH HERALD) and the policies concerning personal use of town equipment by highway employees (documented in my letter in the Feb./March '83 HEATH HERALD). In a democracy public officials have a duty and a responsibility to serve those they represent and to communicate with them concerning matters that fall in the public domain. Failure to do so diminishes freedom.

What is particularly disturbing is the way Selectman Steinbock dealt with the above mentioned policy matters by making statements that contradict the facts in the April 29, '83 issue of the Recorder on the eve of the election run off for selectman. In my letter in the Aug./Sept. '83 HEATH HERALD I asked her to publicly explain those statements which she has not done. I now call on her to publicly apologize to me and the citizens of this town for that unethical action.

In closing, I call again for the promotion of the spirit of community through communication by dialog. It enhances good government, good human relations and insures freedom.

PAUL LIVELY  
Heath



## TOWN COMPUTER RECOMMENDED

In a final report submitted to the Heath Selectmen on March 12, the town computer study committee recommended that funds be appropriated this year to start the town in a computer system for the town offices.

During several months of study the committee reviewed and analyzed the requirements of the Chief Assessor, the Town Clerk/Treasurer, and the Tax Collector. Contacts also were made with town officials in other towns of the area, and with county and state organizations. Vendors of software and hardware were also contacted to determine availability, costs and suitability of programs to meet the specific requirements of Massachusetts towns.

The committee sees no immediate cost saving for the town in the use of a computer system. However, in the long run there could be substantial saving in accurate and up-to-date reporting of financial information tax collections, and in the amount of work required. This would help in attracting good people to run for office.

If the town decides to invest in such a system, the committee emphasized it will require substantial training of key personnel. This training would of necessity have to be in addition to their normal town obligations.

The ultimate cost of such a system to take care of all town records could amount to over \$10000, if all of the software programs were supplied to the town by outside vendors. However, by starting initially with a small system, which could later be expanded, and by adapting standard software programs, some near term benefits can be achieved without such a large expenditure.

A small microcomputer system can be purchased for under \$4000 with the capability of future expansion. Standard general purpose software can be purchased at a relatively low cost which can be adapted to meet the requirements of Heath by one reasonably experienced in computer techniques. The requirements of the treasurer and the tax collector can be taken care of more readily than that of the assessors. However, with a reasonable amount of paid assistance from local people having some computer background, the town financial records and later the tax records could be incorporated in a small computer system by adapting standard software to meet town requirements.

The committee recommended to the Selectmen that Heath appropriate \$5000 for the purchase of a small computer system. This would cover the cost of initial basic hardware, some standard software, and some schooling and training for key town personnel. This initial system, after a year, should benefit the town in better financial reporting and the assessors should have been trained in the fundamental use of the computer for their record keeping. At that time, by purchasing additional disk memory, the system could be expanded to handle all town records.

## SUGARING IN HEATH

by Susan Silverster

Probably one of the oldest sugaring operations in Heath is run by Fred Lively. He remembers helping his father tap the same trees almost 60 years ago when he and his brother Claude worked alongside teams of sturdy work horses in the crisp spring months of March and April. Now his sons keep the tradition alive. Jerome and Timothy lend a hand daily, while Christopher helps out on weekends and son-in-law Michael pitches in frequently.

So far, this season appears to be "pretty good." Approximately 1400 buckets are usually set out, and this year was no exception. Michael tapped again this spring and, if the warm days and cool nights continue into April, it should prove to be another enterprising season for the Lively family. Fred recalls making as much as 400 gallons of syrup some years, but normally he produces between 250 and 300 gallons.

Although a crawler is used now to gather the sap, originally a team of mules was used by the Lively family. Jerry and Maude were a favorite pair of mules, then teams of horses were employed to do the work. Fred's father purchased a pair of work horses named Chub and Prince, and then the last team used during sugaring was Ted and Sally, a team bought from a cousin.

The crawler has been used for the past 25 years now, and some plastic pipeline helps to ease the workload. Normally during sugaring season just the routine chores get done, but soon after the last gallon has been sealed, it is time to start cutting wood to burn for the next season. Fred tries to get it cut and stacked at least before fall to burn the next season in the sugar house. All the wood he uses is cut on his property.

The sugar house he has been using all these years will probably be replaced this year with a new one. Fred feels that he has needed to replace it for five years or so, and this is the year to do it.

What happens to all that delicious maple syrup? Well, there are many private customers that come to the Lively farm to make their annual purchase of pancake topping. Once in a while drums are sold to dealers as far away as New York. It is usually the local customer who comes first though, and the local syrup sells for \$10 a half gallon and \$18 for a full gallon in non-returnable tin cans.

## CHURCH NEWS

by Amy C. Barry

Celebration of the Easter season in the Heath Union Church will begin with a potluck supper for the Heath and Rowe congregations at the Rowe Parish House on Maundy Thursday, April 19, at 6:30 PM. Supper will be followed by a Communion Service in remembrance of Christ's last supper with his disciples. Heath people are asked to bring either a dessert or salad and Rowe people a hot dish or vegetable. Beverages will be provided.

The Easter Sunrise Service in Heath will be held at 5 AM in the field at the corner of Bray Road and Colrain Stage Road. After the Sunrise Service, there will be a pancake breakfast at the Heath Community Hall. The worship service on Easter Sunday will be at 11 AM. At this time new members will be received into the Church and the confirmation class that has been meeting all winter will be confirmed. Everyone is welcome to join with us in these Easter activities.

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## CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

### EDWARD CALVER - Moderator

I have conducted town meetings for ten years and am fully conversant with town meeting law. The voters will know whether or not they want me to continue.

### DENNIS PETERS - Assessor

I was raised on a farm in Gill and attended Montague schools. I served four and a half years in the Marine Corps in California, Alaska, Okinawa and Vietnam with two and a half years overseas duty.

I graduated from Stockbridge School of Agriculture and worked on farms in Massachusetts, Illinois and Florida. I'm presently employed by G.S. Precision in Wilmington VT.

I have lived in town for eleven years and have been clerk of the assessors for four years.

I'm running for office because no one with more experience seemed interested.

### GUY A. SILVESTER - Finance Committee

As a candidate for the Finance Committee, I feel that I have the ability to deal intelligently and fairly in matters related to town finances and that I possess the dedication to work diligently on the committee.

I have worked in education for the past 14 years as a teacher, counselor and administrator, having begun my career with HEW in the National Teacher Corps. I was also a special education consultant for many years. My educational background includes masters in education and psychology and doctoral work in law. More recently I have served on the state appointed Residents Right to Treatment committee for the Belchertown State School and am past president of the Amherst Teachers' Association.

For the past decade I have been involved extensively with finances as a school administrator and more recently as a self employed businessman. I am the owner of Asfield Arms and Enterprises, Inc., a Vermont based corporation that distributes law enforcement equipment for Smith and Wesson.

I was born in St. Albans VT in 1945 and have lived and worked in this area since 1970. I am an ardent outdoor sportsman and was recently appointed to the Heath Conservation Commission. I am married and have a daughter, Betsey, who is in the second grade at the Rowe Elementary School. My wife Susan is the library supervisor for the local schools.

### SUE HUNKLER - School Committee

To you folks in Heath I haven't met yet, please allow me to introduce myself. I'm Sue Hunkler, wife, mother, and household engineer. I have lived in Heath since 1980. I'm very much interested in our community and would like to hold the position of school committee member. I feel that I am qualified. I've worked as an advocate for Western Mass. Legal Services. As a mother, I have four children in our school system and one at home who will be a future student. I am hoping for your confidence and your vote. I would like to take this time to thank my neighbors and friends for their support.

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## CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

### ERIC GRINNELL - Moderator

Town Meeting is a creature which is born annually, first to give shape and then to give direction to its citizens' ideas and wants. It begins life without much personality of its own and doesn't initially possess much sense of purpose. Every individual within it has his own particular concerns and expectations. Each is equipped with strong opinions and uncertain hunches, much understanding of some things and less comprehension of others. This amorphous assembly must coalesce and attempt to chart the town's course for a year.

It seems to me that it is the moderator's business to listen to all these voices and identify the central issues. He must ensure that they are well articulated and must draw out all pertinent points of view. Such clarification of ideas and options allows the meeting to develop clear alternatives and then, better informed, to make good decisions.

An effective town meeting may acquire an admirable sense of purpose and a broad vision of its community's needs. In a small town such as ours, and at its best, Town Meeting can give its citizens more responsive governance than can be found in almost any other society on earth. A moderator may contribute toward reaching that worthy goal, and I should welcome the opportunity to serve Heath in that way.

### RICHARD R. GIARD - Selectman

I'm interested in participating in the future progress of the Town. I would like to have the opportunity to serve as your selectman. I have served three terms as an assessor and five years as the Civil Defense Director. I live on Colrain Stage Road and am self employed.

### JOHN HOLDSWORTH - Library Trustee

I have lived in Heath for nearly ten years with my wife, Jean and our daughter, Laura. Within a few weeks of my arrival in town, I began using the Heath Library and have been a steady patron since then. In my three years as a Library Trustee, I have been interested in all aspects of the Library's resources. If I am reelected, I would like to find ways both to encourage more people to come into the Library and to make the Library more responsive to community needs.

### NEWLAND F. SMITH - Auditor

I am seeking reelection to a one year term as town Auditor, having served in that position for the past four years. Prior to that time I was a member of the Finance Committee for two years.

I am concerned over the town finances and want to see that funds as voted at the town meetings are properly accounted for and administered.

### LINDA MARCOTTE - School Committee

Steve and I have been residents in the town of Heath for 4 1/2 years. I have been a member of the Finance Committee for 1 1/2 years. Part of my responsibilities as Finance Committee member is to attend the Heath School Committee meetings and I feel I know some of what needs to be accomplished as a School Committee member. Though I have enjoyed working on the Finance Committee, I am more interested in children and education and would like an opportunity to serve on the Heath School Committee.

I am currently employed at the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority as Secretary to the Executive Director and the Community Block Grant Program.

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - MAY 7

Town Meeting Day is Monday, May 7, at the Heath Community Hall. All registered voters will have the opportunity to vote for the town candidates of their choice between 1 and 7 PM. Then at 8 PM the annual meeting will be held to act upon the articles in the town warrant.

In the election there are eight important town offices to be filled by ballot. These are listed below with the names of the candidates who have filed nomination papers. In addition write-in votes may be made for any other candidate.

Two positions are being contested this year. For the office of Moderator, Eric Grinnell is running against the present incumbent, Ed Calver. Also, for the three year term on the School Committee, both Sue Hunkler and Linda Marcotte are seeking the position. The slot as Planning Board member has no nominee and, since no one took out papers for this position, it will be filled by a write-in vote. Donald Churchill is the present incumbent.

Position	Term(yrs)	Candidate
Moderator (vote for one)	3	Edward Calver Eric Grinnell
Selectman	3	Richard Giard
Assessor	3	Dennis Peters
School Committee (vote for one)	3	Sue Hunkler Linda Marcotte
Finance Committee	3	Guy Silvester
Planning Board	5	(no nominee)
Library Trustee	3	John Holdsworth
Town Auditor	1	Newland Smith

The last day for new voters to register before the town election is on Tuesday April 17 at the residence of the Town Clerk on South Road between noon and 8 PM. Also one can register with her on Saturday, April 14, between the same hours, and at the Town Hall during her regular hours on other days before April 17.

Elsewhere in this issue statements are given as submitted by the candidates on their background and qualifications.

## LADIES AID

by Amy C. Barry

The Ladies Aid agreed this year to meet through the winter and so far has cancelled only three meetings due to illness or bad weather.

Esther Gallup talked on March 1 about the art of Ukranian egg decoration, showing many examples of this craft which she has done. She explained the process of applying designs and colors.

On a very cold March 12, the Heath Ladies Aid joined the Rowe Women's Guild for lunch and a creative stitchery party at the Rowe Parish Hall. Over 20 women were present and everyone learned how to do "chicken scratch" embroidery.

The Heath Ladies Aid meets at 11 AM every second Thursday at the Community Hall. We work on a wide variety of sewing projects throughout the year, with each member contributing her special talents or interests. Recently we have been doing candlewicking designs for pillows as well as working on stuffed animals, tooth pillows, tea cozies, and cloth activity books for toddlers. Come and join us at our next meeting.

## NICOLE FOGARTY: OUTSTANDING ATHLETE

by Susan Silvester

Mohawk spring sports have begun again, and senior Nicole Fogarty is looking forward to another successful season. Nicole, the daughter of Anne and Richards Steinbock of Heath, has been an active member of the track and cross country teams for the past six years. She is an inspiration to many younger students and has brought fame and glory to the legendary teams.

Nicole's cross country participation has brought many honors to her team - for the past three years Mohawk has placed third in the state and was Western Massachusetts Champions for eight out of the past nine years. The team placed third at the Eastern States Championship this year in October. The girls' track team has also benefitted from Nicole's ability. When she was in the ninth grade, her team was Western Massachusetts Champion title holder, and she has participated in first place honors at Winacunnett in New Hampshire.

Next year Mohawk will miss one of its most outstanding athletes. Nicole has been accepted at Southeastern Mass. University in North Dartmouth where she will be on both the track and cross country teams.

Nicole is a member of the Varsity M Club at Mohawk and the Springfield Harriers running club. She tutors algebra at the high school and assists with the kindergarten program at the Hawlemont School in Charlemont.

## TAX NOTICES MAILED

by Sandra Gilbert, Tax Collector

On March 26 notices were mailed to taxpayers asking for voluntary payments for their '84 estimated real estate tax. Your prompt payments are appreciated.

I would also like to remind people to PLEASE return your card with your payment so I may credit the money to the proper account. Also, if you no longer own the property, please forward the card to the new owner.

The tax notices mailed will take the place of the first estimated bills and any payments made will be credited on your actual bills to be issued sometime in June.

If you have any questions, you can call me on Mondays or Tuesdays, 9-12 AM at 337-4390.



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## A MOUSE TALE



by Amy C. Barry

The regional headquarters of M.A.N. is located at our house. For those not in the know, M.A.N. stands for "Mice Are Nice Society," a small but dedicated group who believe in live and let live as far as mice are concerned. At the present time, M.A.N. has only two members - my husband and my daughter. What makes their commitment even more difficult is the fact that the third person in their household, wife and mother to the membership, subscribes to the simple philosophy that the only good mouse is a dead mouse.

My aversion to mice goes back to the first summer we owned this house. The exterior clapboards had been repaired and apparently a few mice, who had had the place to themselves for a long time, became trapped inside. One evening I nearly walked into a mouse in the upstairs hallway. I screamed and ran in one direction; the mouse ran in the other direction. In its panicked flight, it fell over the stair leading to the floor below and perished. While I covered in the kitchen getting my blood pressure back to normal, my kind husband buried the unfortunate creature with appropriate ceremony. My reputation as "She Who Kills" was born.

As our daughter grew older, she closed ranks with her father on the subject of mice. Meanwhile, I conducted a lonely crusade against the little pests. Poison was soon ruled out as too cruel and so I resorted to trapping when absolutely necessary. Mouse-traps always worked, but accusing looks from my family continued to haunt me.

Last year, after seeing an ad in *Yankee*, we purchased a "Mouse House" advertised as a safe, humane, and educational way to catch mice. It is a shoebox-like container with a raised trap door that closes down when the mouse goes in to get the bait. You can pick up the container, occupant and all, and release the mouse outside.

Right after Christmas we used the Mouse House several times with great success. The mouse would be secure, but not hurt, and get a free snack in the bargain. Then one morning I discovered that the House was no longer doing its job. The peanut butter bait was gone and the door was down, but there was no mouse inside. Assuming this escape to be a lucky accident, we set the Mouse House out again for several nights and got the same result each morning - no peanut butter and no mouse! In the wonder filled scheme of endless variety and struggle for survival on which Nature is based, a mouse had appeared that could figure out how to raise the sliding door and escape.

I did not write to the creators of the Mouse House with our Mighty Mouse story. Instead I packed the device away and one afternoon, while Craig was at work and Caroline was watching Mr. Rogers, I set a trap in the pantry. Before too long, the smart mouse was no more. For my heartless execution of such an intelligent and adorable creature, I was briefly blacklisted by my husband and daughter. Soon all was forgiven, however, when I produced a chocolate cake as a peace offering.

Mice are still nice as far as the vigilant M.A.N. members are concerned. But should they again get overly sentimental the next time we have mice, I guarantee they will have to resort to means other than the Mouse House to save their furry friends. I, who have a knack for putting things away where no one can ever find them, put away the Mouse House. Where it's hidden is a secret I share with no one, not even a mouse.

## COMMUNITY HALL PLANS

by Terry Pettengill

On the forthcoming town warrant for the next fiscal year taxpayers will find a request for a large sum of money to redecorate the inside of the Community Hall.

The Community Hall Committee feels that enough years of neglect have gone by and, since 1985 is the Health Bicentennial, we have a very good reason for a face lift.

The money requested should cover the cost of repair and painting of the stage ceiling, the large hall metal ceiling, the walls and ceiling of the small upper hall, and repainting all upstairs woodwork. It would also allow for refinishing the upstairs floor, including the stage. All of this work would have to be done by professionals because of the knowledge and equipment needed.

We would ask volunteer workers to assist in repairing and painting in the balcony and also to help with all of the painting and cleaning to be done on the first floor. However, money will be needed to purchase paint and materials.

The shades for the long hall windows need replacing and the estimates received are in a very wide range. The stage draperies need to be cleaned and fire-proofed - or, if the material will not hold up to dry cleaning, will have to be replaced. The replacement estimates are extremely high.

Therefore, when you see the town warrant, these are the reasons for the request.

## MEDICAL CENTER PROGRAMS

The 1984 spring/summer "Health Thyself" Program Calendar is now available at the Mohawk Valley Medical Center. These programs cover a wide range of subjects. Pre-registration is required. Call the Health Education office, 625-2503 for information and registration.

### Alan L. Nichols

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## THE SUMNER BARN BRIDGE

by Rachel Sumner

The painting shown here was done by Robert Strong Woodward and depicts the barn bridge which was over the road at the old Sumner home in North Heath, now owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson.

The bridge was used to make it easier to put loads of hay into the barn. One could drive the horses and loaded wagon into the top of the barn and unload the hay into the hay mows below, saving a lot of hard work. The ridge pole on the roof of the bridge carried straight through to the ridge of the barn roof, so it seems that they were built at the same time. It was a great curiosity and we were told it was the only barn bridge in the state.

About 1830 Ralph's great grandfather, Levi Sumner, Jr., came to Heath from Vermont and bought 100 acres from Enoch Harris. He made many improvements, built a new house and barn. We are not sure, but probably the bridge over the road was built about the same time. When Levi Sumner died in 1871 his son, Oscar, took over the farm. In 1888 he bought 187 acres in Whitingham, VT and ran the two farms together dealing largely in cattle (he had a fine dairy of choice Durhams), sheep and horses.

Ralph's father, Arthur Sumner, bought the homestead in the early 1900's and added large apple orchards to the rest of the farming operations.

The farm was sold about 1941 and the bridge taken down a few years later.

It is hard to realize today how extensive the farming operations were in Heath in the past years.



The Sumner Barn Bridge  
(Photo by Rachel Sumner)

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## PLANT A VIEW

by Pat Leuchtman

My kitchen table sits in front of a big south-facing window. I often sit by that window, at mealtimes, over coffee and a leisurely perusal of the Sunday papers or at tea time with friends.

The "natural view", lilacs, lawns, meadows and hills rising, fills me with delight, but when it came time to plant a flower garden I planned it so I would be able to admire it from that window.

Often a garden is only intended to form an attractive setting for the exterior of the house; I'd like to suggest that we sometimes shift our perspective and consider the view from inside the house.

I think that everyone has a favorite chair, perhaps placed by a window with an ordinary or uninspiring view. If that is so, a bit of garden can be created to fit within that window "picture frame."

My window is large and the garden sweeps down the southern slope beyond a hundred feet or more of lawn. Because the garden is so far away I strive for bold effects that I can see from a distance. I have planted large, old-fashioned rose bushes including a white climbing rose that will clamber up the trunk of an ancient apple tree that is also underplanted with great clumps of foxglove. In addition I keep in mind the fact that pale colors "carry" further than deep shades.

Neat borders of pansies are not for this garden. Instead I've chosen to let the phlox develop into oversized clumps and the achillea sprawls in a mass of brilliant yellow.

Other views call for a different approach. Perhaps a single flowering dogwood would give as much pleasure as all my shrubs and perennials.

Outside his living room windows, Ed Calver has set a garden at eye level and filled it with miniature plants, a cascading juniper, a Japanese succulent, a delicate wild iris and a tiny variety of goldenrod. From this window the view is subtle and filled with surprises for the careful observer. Yet from another window he has planted a mid-ground view where the tall spikes of cimicifuga look like exploding skyrocket-ets along the shady woods path. A different view, a different plan, a different effect. Equal pleasure.

Creating a view need not mean a lot of extra work. Consideration of the given setting, consultation with one's own preferences and a little imagination can be used to give to a "spot garden" or a vista that will give you pleasure countless times a day as you go about your work.

Look for the Heath Bicentennial Calendar this summer

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## HEATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Amy C. Barry

The first 1984 meeting of the Society's directors was held on March 22. Newly elected director Edith Royer and secretary Alice Woznak were welcomed.

Treasurer Craig Barry reported that the Society raised a total of \$2600 from the raffle last summer. A great deal of thanks is due to everyone who helped make this fund raising a success and especially to Dominic Musacchio for building and donating the fine hutch.

Curator Amy Barry reported that the long awaited index to Dr. Calver's history of Heath is ready for the printer and should be available in early summer. More on the availability of the index will appear in the June issue of the HEATH HERALD.

The Heath Historical Society will host the spring meeting of the Pioneer Valley Historical Council at the Community Hall on Saturday, May 5, at 9:30 AM. This is an organization of 22 historical societies of the area with over 50 individual members. Mr. Nicholas Filler, an attorney in Greenfield, will speak on the legal aspects of historical societies and museum collections. After the meeting, the Council members will visit the Old Town House and Schoolhouse museums.

A HHS Bicentennial Committee has been formed to work on special historical projects for the 1985 Bicentennial and to coordinate with the town committee on these activities. The members are Pat Leuchtmann, Pegge Howland, Amy Barry, Bill Wolf and Newland Smith. Their major project initially is the creation and publication of a 1985 calendar composed of photographs from the Historical Society collection. None of these photographs have been previously published and they serve as wonderful glimpses of another era with its now vanished landscapes, long-dead individuals and rural lifestyle. Significant and interesting dates from Heath's history will also be included in this calendar. The calendar should be ready to go on sale in July of this year.

## TAI CHI CHUAN IN HEATH

Leonard Schoenfeld, the fifth/sixth grade teacher at Rowe School, is offering a workshop in the oriental dance form known as TAI CHI CHUAN. The course running from late April to October will be held on a week night at the Heath Community Hall.

Mr. Schoenfeld recommends this course to all those interested in combining the relaxing effects of meditation with some form of mild non-strenuous exercise. It is also an excellent curative for those who suffer from ailments affecting the joints. For more information, call 628-3357.

Gordon E. Taylor d/b/a



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## BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Paul Lively, Chairman  
Heath Bicentennial Committee

At our February 13th meeting we met with Eric Grinnell concerning a musical program featuring the Mohawk Trail Concert Association. Tentatively a lawn dance party is scheduled to be held on June 29, 1985 at James Coursey's place. Antique cars will be used to transport people to this event which will take place in the afternoon. This will be followed by a supper at the Community Hall and then a concert in the Church.

We also met with Steve Marcotte who reported that plans for the cross country ski race are developing smoothly. The race is tentatively scheduled for Sunday February 10. It will start and finish in the center of town, covering a course approximately nine miles long.

The bicentennial auto plates are now on sale at Peters' Store and the Town Office. We are now looking into the purchase of medallions imprinted with the town logo. These would be both for sale and given as mementos for those who come with antique cars.

We want to point out that the committee and those responsible for the various events will need a lot of help from the townspeople when these events are presented. So let us prepare our minds for that and be ready to volunteer when the time comes - it is coming fast!

## HEATH GARDENERS LEAD TOUR

Elsa Bakalar, "an English gardener," and Pat Leuchtmann, "an American garden writer," will lead a tour to England this summer. The tour entitled "Cottage and Castle", will leave July 20 and return August 4 and is sponsored by the Division of Continuing Education of GCC. It will focus on village life but will also include visits to castles and cathedrals and a three day stay in London.

A four session workshop, free to the travelers, will precede the tour. On April 16 at 6:30 PM an informational meeting, open to the public, will be held. For a copy of the brochure and other information call 774-3131.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING

The Mohawk Trail District is offering developmental screening for three and four year old children in compliance with state and federal law. This will assess each child's development and will identify children who may need special services before entering school.

A parent orientation meeting to explain the screening will be held Monday, April 16 at 2 PM at the MTRHS. Contact Lois Holm, Coordinator, (625-2555) for further information.



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## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Chief Earl Gleason

The Department responded to four chimney fires in February. One of these left the chimney and became a structure fire, but damage was kept to a minimum. No emergency called for the month of March.

The Chief attended the Tri-State Mutual Aid annual meeting in Greenfield on February 23, and was elected First Vice President. Other new business at the meeting was discussion of new services that Tri-State might put into effect along with the report of the directors on updating the radio system and implementation of a computer to facilitate running orders for the towns.

On March 28, a directors' meeting was held in Northfield demonstrating the use of a computer for the fire service.

Another meeting with the State Fire Marshal and his staff was held in Westhampton. This program consisted of introduction and discussion with the state troopers assigned to fire investigation in the western counties, procedure and guidelines for bomb scares, introduction to new fire extinguisher regulations, discussion of the regulations that are to be enforced by the local fire departments, and last a talk on filling out the fire incident reports.

On March 25, an afternoon drill was held in Charlemont with Charlemont and Heath men pumping in a relay using Charlemont's new four inch hose. Seven firemen and Engine One participated.

## ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Richards Steinbock, Chairman  
Heath Board of Assessors

Nothing much to report on that you don't already know about or will read about in the town report. The revaluation is finally coming to completion - a relief to us all.

The post cards which you all received from the tax collector might need a little explanation.

Because we cannot issue final fiscal 1984 tax bills until the reval is complete, we had hoped to issue estimated first-half bills as we did last year. However, our computer company told us that what with ordering the bill forms, putting new information into the computer, and printing the bills, they would be unable to send out estimated bills until the end of May. As we are hoping to be able to get the actual bills out some time around then, it seemed a costly and pointless duplication of time and effort to send out estimated bills at that time.

The company told us that other towns in our situation had sent out post cards instead of bills. It seemed like a good idea. - So we did it.

What you got is not an official bill and there is no legal obligation to pay it, but paying it now does have two advantages: it keeps money flowing into the town, reducing borrowing; and it will make your final payment in June that much lower.

With good luck, this is the last year we will have to go through all these billing shenanigans. We're looking forward to having the fiscal 1985 bills out right on time - September 1984.

One final note. You can look for the town valuation list in your next issue of the HEATH HERALD.

## SELECTMEN'S HIGHLIGHTS

A year ago we introduced an innovation. The town report goes to press before the warrant articles are complete or in final form. Printing them in the bound report causes confusion among the voters at meeting time, so after the warrant was closed we prepared separate inserts for inclusion just before the reports were distributed. This change worked well, and we will do the same this year. The official warrant is of course posted at the store and at the town hall.

Another innovation: we are planning an informational open house (which suggests that there may be light refreshments) for the evening of April 30, beginning at 7:00. There will be presentations of matters which need airing because they are intricate or likely to be controversial, or both. Some of these were initiated by the selectmen and some by other officers or committees. Among them will be the provision of home nursing services, the possible purchase of a computer, the refurbishing of the community hall before the bicentennial, an overview of the celebration itself, a proposal to finish the large room on the second floor of Sawyer Hall, which has become crowded. There will be ample opportunity for discussion, and if there is a good turnout the time pressure at the annual meeting may be reduced.

At this time of year we work, with others, on preparation of next year's budget. We have also set up two committees. The computer study committee consists of Newland Smith, Paul Dabrody, Douglas Wilkins, and Lee Shepherd, all of whom own, use, or teach the use of these instruments. The conservation commission is made up of four volunteers and there should be one more. The present membership is Ruth Law, chairman, Guy Silvester, Carroll Stowe, and David Thane.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Richard Housner, Chairman  
Heath School Committee

Since the last report, the School Committee's main concern has been to develop its budget for the upcoming fiscal year. This is basically a joint endeavor. The Heath and Rowe school committees construct a Rowe School budget. Then Heath adjusts its own independent budget to meet its tuition obligation to Rowe. This coming year we will be at a 41% rate of the actual tuition per student. This process has involved much work and cooperation between the two towns and both committees have plans they can fully support. At this time, teachers' contracts have not been finalized, and our budgets have been constructed with an anticipation of settlement.

Our budget hearing is set for Thursday, April 12, at 8:00 PM at Sawyer Hall. The Committee urges citizen participation at this hearing so that we can answer, in a detailed manner, any questions that you may have.

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## ACADEMY NEWS

by Luke Housner '89

The 4th quarter had a good start. Both Josh Phillips of Goshen and Kristin Aregado of Turners Falls have been enrolled recently.

On March 28th, we celebrated the traditional Academy's Founder's Day. This is our 3rd anniversary. We had a feast of Italian, Yugoslavian, French, Spanish, and other Mediterranean dishes which were prepared and served by students, parents, and faculty. At about 11:30, everyone ate the Founder's Day Feast and then departed for the ski slopes. Despite the blizzard that day we were well attended, prepared, and all was greatly enjoyed.

That afternoon, the festivities continued with a winter carnival. The school split up into two teams; ivory and burgandy (the Academy colors) and participated in various winter sports. That morning had been spent concentrating on school improvement. The Academy teachers took about 8 students each to clean and repair a particular area in the building. Another job was to set up ski, tube, sled and obstacle races for the upcoming carnival at Berkshire East.

Several parents' evenings have been scheduled for April. The first meeting, open to the public, will be about the "Concerns of the Middle School Child", and the speaker will be Academy parent and Regional Director of the State Department of Education, Ron Aregado. The second meeting will be "The College Admission Process," with speaker Penelope Johnson of Yale and N.Y.U. A gala parents' dinner will be held in early May.

Our Staten Island student exchange program was definitely successful, and others will be planned for the upcoming years.

On Sunday, June 3, there will be a Banquet following graduation ceremonies. This is another event we are looking forward to.

## LIBRARY LINES

by Jane Wishard, Librarian

It's Spring! Gardening books are blooming in the Library: we've added several new ones to our collection and obtained several others from the Bookmobile. Check them out and perhaps they'll plant some new ideas in your growing scheme.

Speaking of the Bookmobile, they've helped us a great deal in the past, and they could use our help now. Please drop a note to our state legislators and ask them to support the Regional Bookmobile budget. The Bookmobile is a valuable asset to communities like ours and if their budget is cut it will undoubtedly mean a cut in the services they provide us.

Our new display case has arrived and is ready to receive collections. Please share your interest with your neighbors. We'd like to show off your stamps... coins... dolls... whatever. If you're into 12 foot murals they won't fit, but smaller items will look nice in the case.

The Library will be hosting a meeting of Regional librarians on April 17; the subject concerns summer reading programs for children. We're pleased to have the Regional group at our Library, and are looking forward to developing a summer program that our children will enjoy. Reading is fundamental, and fun, too!

Summertime is the traditional time for television re-runs, and we offer re-runs, too. We have many new best sellers for you, of course, but back in the stacks... that's where we keep the re-runs! Come in and browse and take time to read again some of your special favorite books. Like most of us, they get better with age.

See you at the Library!

## SCHOOL FAIR AT MOHAWK

by Susan Silvester

The annual school fair will be held at Mohawk Trail Regional School on May 3rd and 4th, including the evening of May 3rd. This year's fair will be a gala combination of four distinct annual events: the Creative Arts Festival, the School Fair, the Career Fair and Related Arts Festival.

A listing of events and projects on display will be available in late April. A special feature of the evening program will be a dinner sponsored by the Teachers' Association. Proceeds will be used for scholarships. Heath parents and interested community members are cordially invited to attend the many activities planned for the two day fair.

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## ZONING CHANGES PROPOSED

by John Holdsworth

On Monday April 2, some 30 townspeople and Mohawk Estates owners turned out for a Planning Board hearing to discuss a proposed zoning amendment for Mohawk Beach Estates (MBE). At this time no MBE building permits are being issued because two town attorneys have declared that the development is not a legal subdivision. (At the time Heath accepted subdivision regulations, only three lots in MBE had been deeded to separate owners; these three lots are under the 'Grandfather' clause. The rest of the property, still under one ownership, should have been presented to the Planning Board for subdivision approval, but it was not done, so the parcel could not be legally subdivided. Hence, all but the three purchased lots were governed by the dimensional requirements of the zoning bylaws; none of these lots met the requirements. In error, building permits were issued in MBE until 1983 when the building inspector refused further approval until the situation could be legalized).

The amendment to the Heath zoning bylaws, proposed by the Planning Board to clear this situation, is as follows:

1. To empower the Planning Board to authorize a waiver of the application of subdivision control legislation in the area of known as Mohawk Beach Estates.
2. To amend the Heath Zoning Bylaws for the area known as MBE as follows: To exempt MBE from the provisions of Sections 5a and 5b of the Zoning Bylaws and to add sections 5e, 5f, 5g and 5h to the Zoning Bylaws, to apply only to MBE.
  - 5e Lot Frontage - 70 feet minimum on a public way or street or private way which serves as a MBE right of way.
  - 5f Lot Size - 10,000 square feet minimum.
  - 5g All Board of Health regulations and building code regulations will continue to apply.
  - 5h Any contiguous lots in one ownership shall constitute a tract of land and any attempt to convey one "lot" from those adjoining shall constitute a subdivision, requiring Planning Board approval.

At the hearing it was pointed out that most lots in MBE have less than 70 feet road frontage and 10,000 square feet area. This may be true, but because many residents there own more than one lot, a large number of them would satisfy the requirements. Those who couldn't might be able to purchase adjacent property, if it was available, or could seek a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Many owners do not ever intend to build.

There was concern that some lots might never be buildable because of negative percolation tests or denied variances, yet might still be assessed as building lots. The Chairman of the Assessors declared that no lots are assessed as building lots until they are built upon; assessments until then are based on sale price. There was also concern that in cases where an owner had to obtain more land for a septic system, an abuttor could charge an inflated price for his lot. This is very possible, and it is a problem that zoning bylaws would be unlikely to alleviate.

In the case where a person owns a number of contiguous lots in MBE, those lots would be viewed as a single parcel and no subdivision of the parcel would be permitted without presentation of a plan for approval of the Planning Board.

A question was raised about whether the town would have to maintain roads in MBE if they were accepted for frontage. It was pointed out that there is precedent throughout the county for private roads or ways that towns accept as rights-of-way but do not maintain.

Town zoning presently requires setbacks from all property lines of 25 feet for dwellings and 15 feet for accessory buildings. It was mentioned that this might be too restrictive for lots in MBE. The Planning Board will consider the applicability of these dimensions in MBE.

There was discussion about whether passage of this zoning amendment by the town would establish a precedent of which future developers might be able to take advantage. It was felt that this action was a response to a problem which antedated zoning. With the zoning and subdivision laws in place, developers would have to abide by those laws, which include the possibilities of variance for dimensional relief or special permit for otherwise unpermitted use.

It was observed that the MBE development provides a significant tax revenue for the town and that it is to everyone's advantage to see that a salutary solution to the current problem is reached.

On all sides, it was recognized that Board of Health requirements regarding wells and septic systems, along with soil percolation requirements, will be the major limiting factors in the future development of MBE.

The Planning Board will hold a special meeting, open to the public, on the 18th of April at 8 PM in Heath Center to discuss the results of the hearing and to consider the final wording of the proposed zoning amendment.

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## Voice of the Peepers (continued from page 1)

Of the things to do, after making certain the first peeper is clearing his throat, opinion must vary, poison being to some what meat is to another. If the thumb is a green one, and besides is itching after a long winter, it would be good to listen for the first peeper while surveying the garden area just before supper. If the thumb is pointed down on the agricultural avocation - well, there are children's TV programs so filled with gunfire that no taunting peeper could be heard above them. If the first peeper is heard while on the way fishing, clearly trout can be expected for breakfast right through until Labor Day. If it is heard while wandering backwoodland roads, then let the summer be spent drifting, with the reward of a hidden-away inn as the summer's nightfall approaches. If it is heard while taking a stroll in the woods, nothing could be better than walking there throughout the summer, until the turning leaves mean autumn and the spell of the peeper is gone. But perhaps the best moment to stop still in time - with the aid of the peeper - is that most obvious one of all. What could offer a better summer than a continuation of that soaring feeling which comes only when hearing the first notes of the spring peeper?

(Editors' note: This is the second essay which the HERALD has taken from Nich's series, Topics of the Times, previously published in the New York Times. It is printed here with the permission of his wife, Helen Malone Nichols.)

## HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Robin Law celebrated her 21st birthday on April 1 with a gathering of her family at home. It was a lovely day and her grandmother, Grace Landstrom, was able to come up to Heath to join in the celebration. So all in all it was a very special day.

Julie Locke will be the artist-of-the month exhibit in June at the Mohawk Trail Regional School Resource Center.

Richard Housner has been accepted into the Smith College School for Social Work. This 2 1/2 year graduate course involves study and internship as well as research in the field and leads to a masters degree.

Laurel Fink, daughter of Lucia and Don Fink, has been promoted to Lance Corporal, USMC. Laura is stationed in Korea at present.

Susan and Betsey Silvester were guests recently at the Southeastern New England Marketplace in Newport, RI.

Ernie Thane is recuperating nicely at the Franklin Medical Center.



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## MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

Andrea Emily was born on February 9 to Elizabeth and Dennis Beaudoin of South Road.

Carrie Ann was born on February 25 to Sueann Crowningshield and Michael Truce of Greenfield. Carrie Ann is the granddaughter of Rudolph Fournier.

Lauren Michele was born on March 5 to Wendy and Robert Bennett, Jr. of Shelburne Falls. Lauren is the granddaughter of Ann and William Shaw of Rowe Road.

Jessica Lynn was born on March 14 to Betsy and Sheldon Beebe of Bellows Falls VT. Jessica is the granddaughter of Nancy and Paul Burrington and the great-granddaughter of Hannah Burrington all of Heath.

Cassie Lynne was born on March 28 to Sandra and Mark Hatch of Colrain Stage Road. Cassie is the granddaughter of Claire and Richard Hatch of Heath.

Jordan Fred was born on April 3 to Norma Churchill and the late Fred Churchill. Jordan is the grandson of Pearl Churchill and the great grandson of Grace Landstrom.

Ralph Riddle celebrated his 91st birthday in February. He is well and happy and would like to hear from his old friends in Heath.

Timothy G. Smith (Schmidt) died at his home in Heath on February 7. Timothy is survived by his sister, Julia Hall of Auburndale, FL; a niece, Johanna, and two nephews, Matthew and Robert Hall.

Fred Bernard died at his home in Jacksonville VT on February 11. Fred leaves a daughter, Dorothy Sessions, and a grandson, Norman Sessions, of Heath. He also leaves several other children and grandchildren in Jacksonville and other towns.

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