

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 4

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1986

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 35¢

ALL IN THE FAMILY

by Alastair Maitland

Number Nine Road in Heath seems these days to be where the action is. There is the H.T. Associates housing development at the northern end. And, farther south, there has been a fair amount of commotion - accompanied by not a few traffic jams - as carpenters, electricians and refrigeration engineers have converged daily on Peters General Store. (This, by the way, is the store's official name; there is no apostrophe, whether correctly or incorrectly placed).

Like most country stores Peters General Store is something more than an emporium. To Heathens it has long been what the Agora was to the Athenians. There are, of course, other places in Heath which may have pretensions in this direction - such as Sawyer Hall and the town dump, where Heathens collecting their mail or a library book, or disposing of their garbage, get together to socialize and gossip and sometimes to do a spot of politicking. But the store has a much longer and securer tradition as a focal point of town life.

According to Marcella Lively, the store, which had started its life in the house (Fresh Winds Farm) across the road where she and Paul and their family now live, was established at its present site by Grandfather Levi Lively in 1913. His daughter, Philippine, then aged 16, was installed behind the counter. Levi was averse to her going off to high school. She was more than ready, he felt, to take on the responsibility of running a business.

Ten years later Philippine and her husband Leon Peters became the joint owners of the store, which they made their home. All of their 11 children were born in the house at the back of the premises. The half-century reign of Philippine was a long and happy and prosperous one. In the mind's eye of many a Heathen of a certain seniority there is still today the vision of Peters Store as the place where the smiling and ever-courteous Philippine held sway, at her command post behind the counter, while husband Leon moved about the store, performing his assigned chores, as any dutiful and properly house-trained Prince Consort would.

Generation has succeeded generation. In 1972 Philippine and Leon handed over to their son Cleon and his wife Teresa. They, in turn, sold the store to Teresa's brother and his wife Pam who, six years later, sold it to another member of the family, Michael Peters, the son of Teresa and Cleon.

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BIKEATHON

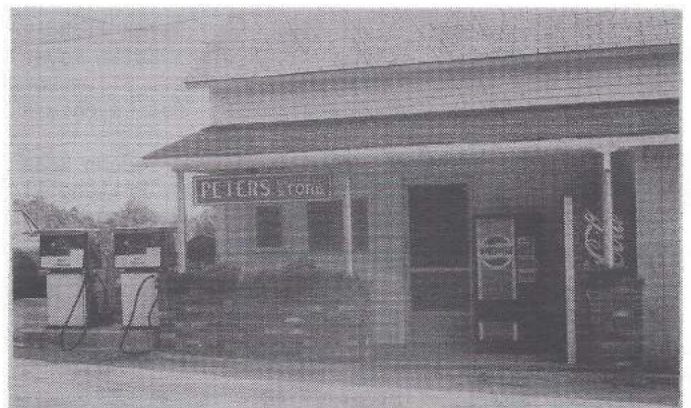
by Catherine Nichols

A Bikeathon in Heath?! We need to raise about \$3500 in order to install a new basketball court at the park. So the Park Committee is holding a Bikeathon on Sunday, October 12. Intrepid bikers of all ages will choose either the 10 or the 20 mile course and compete to see who can bring in the most pledges.

The event will begin at 12:30 in Heath Center. The 10 mile course heads west along Main Street down Long Hill Road, across 8A to Rowe Road, then east on Groll Road in Rowe, then South on Number Nine, 8A, Ben Road, Branch Hill and Bray Road back to the Center. The 20 mile course is the same with the addition of making two circles around Potter, Cross and Stone Hill Roads in Rowe. The Heath and Rowe Selectmen have agreed to close Long Hill and Rowe Road to through traffic for the period that the bikes are on those roads. Anyone interested in participating in or assisting with this event should contact Carol Sartz at 337-4077. We hope you will support the bikers with your pledges. They'll deserve it.

Following the Bikeathon there will be a Potluck Picnic at the Park starting around 3:00. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The plan for the basketball court is to do the rough grading and fill this fall and the final grading and paving in the spring. The donations from our recent mailing are greatly appreciated and with the money from the Bikeathon we should be able to reach our goal.



The ONLY Store in Heath
The New Peters

(Photo by John Read)

CARD OF THANKS

The family of Grace E. Landstrom extends their heartfelt thanks to the relatives and friends for their kind and loving acts of care, concern and prayers during her recent illness and death.

We are most grateful to Dr. French and the nurses who cared for her and to the Rev. Kevin Pleas, Dr. Robert Brown, the Charlemont Ambulance Service, Mrs. Pearl Jurentkuff and the Heath Ladies Aid.

Ada & Joe Duffy and family
Pearl Churchill and family
Ruth & Russ Johnson and family

NEW NEIGHBORS

by Terry Pettengill

Welcome to new North Heath neighbors - John and Nancy Clark of Manhattan, NY, who recently purchased the Santella place on Route 8A.

John is a free-lance French horn player who does studio work and, at times, plays with the Paul Winter Consort, the Gil Evans Orchestra, the Mohawk Trail Concerts, etc.

Nancy is a graduate student of anthropology at New York University, a housewife and mother and loves gardening.

Their son, Trevor, is a freshman at Queens College in NY and an apprentice sculptor under a master at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. He is also a guitar player.

Their daughter Sandy is a senior at Stuyvesant High School in New York. She likes to ride horseback and plays the guitar also.

John and son Trevor are also dirt-bike enthusiasts.

After touring western Massachusetts for many years and finding it beautiful, five years ago they purchased a place in Charlemont because of their association with the Mohawk Trail Concerts. Their home in Heath is a dream come true.

HEATH HERALD

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GRACE LANDSTROM

Some Reflections

An obituary is a cold and calculating thing; an exposition of the facts, but not the spirit, of a life. When the HERALD asked me to write "something for Grace," I wondered what form it should take. This is not an obituary, but rather an attempt to articulate the essentials of a long and productive life.

We were not strictly speaking related. We were, however, bound together by an elaborate network of "relatives-in-common." Our kinship was one of proximity: we were both children of Heath. When I was young I thought of her as "Robin's Gram"; I saw her in church, about town and when we made our Yuletide caroling rounds. She would always come to the door and listen with rapt attention as we sang (invariably off-key) and smile, clearly pleased.

At the memorial service, the shared reflections of the family brought her sharply into focus: a woman of simple tastes, common sense, enthusiastic about life. She was a woman who saw all of this turbulent (and often dreadful) century, managing to keep her balance and sense of humor, addressing life in a steady and humane way. Born worlds away, her children and grandchildren celebrated her ability to understand the complexities of their lives, to listen without comment, to advise and to guide. She was, in short, appropriately named.

On another level, she stood for a way of being in the world that is quintessentially "Heathen." Her love of the land was expressed over eighty-eight years of toil and care. She embodied, in some way, the spirit of the place: the combination of respect for the land and for others which draws, or keeps, us here. All of our lives have been touched by her or her contemporaries; and as that generation of stewards slowly passes, we can hope that their lives will be reflected in our own. Grace, truly manifested, is undying.

. . . Todd A. Sumner

HEATH PRECIPITATION

by Ralph Dickinson, Observer
for Mass. Water Resources Commission

August rainfall was 4.02 inches; July rainfall was 2.78 inches.

Total precipitation for the first nine months of 1986 was 36.82 inches. By comparison the average rainfall during the past 20 years for August is 3.96 inches; and for September is 3.74 inches. The average precipitation for the first nine months of the past 20 years is 37.85 inches. Last year by the end of September we had only 32.88 inches.



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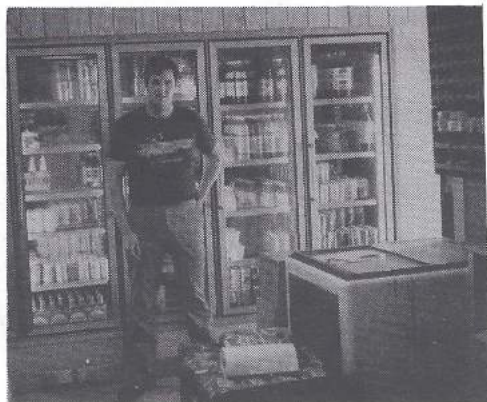
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Each succeeding generation, of course, has its own ideas about how to run things. During Cleon's tenure there was a major departure from tradition. A liquor license, he thought, would help business. When asked whether Philippine had approved, he said that she had let it be known that if it had still been her store she wouldn't have done it. As for his father, his response had been: Do what you want, because you will go ahead and do it anyway. This is what Cleon has now said to son Michael.

Michael's project is no mere face-lift. There has been some major internal surgery, involving amongst other things the installation of a single large walk-in refrigerated compartment and a small elevator to facilitate the conveyance of (mainly liquid) merchandise from the cellar to the main floor. One of the immediate advantages of the unified refrigeration section is that from now on the entire milk order can be delivered direct into the cooler. Hitherto it had to be divided up for delivery to three separate locations. The new refrigeration system is protected against electrical failure by an alarm bell together with an exterior warning light over the service entrance.

Although a portion of the front porch has now been partitioned off and incorporated into the store itself (in order to compensate for the elimination of the old grain room) Michael estimates that the remodelling operation will not have resulted in any significant net addition to the store's ambulation area. But the over-all impression is of greater elbow-room. There is still plenty of space for gossiping or even for a small informal town meeting.

The new owner has already made sure that his generation will leave its permanent mark on Heath - in a quite concrete sense. Following the example of Kilroy, but adopting the more enduring technique of Mr. Grauman at his Chinese Theatre, Michael has carved his name and the date in the newly-laid cement floor of what used to be the inner section of the store. But the innovator is also the traditionalist. One thing that he will be leaving respectfully undisturbed is Philippine's amulet, which for over 50 years has hung over the inside of the entrance, as a protection against fire and other disasters. It was the only insurance policy that Philippine had ever thought to invest in. On one side of the amulet is inscribed: "Apostleship of Prayer in league with the Sacred Heart." And, on the other: "Cease! The Heart of Jesus is with me. Thy Kingdom come! One hundred Days each time."



Michael Peters with Walk-in Refrigerators

(Photo by John Read)

THE MISSING

by Marcella Lively

[The following verse was written by his mother in memory of Malvin Jude Lively, who died October 25, 1985, one day before his 22nd birthday. It is reprinted here from The Catholic Observer where it was first published May 23, 1986.]

The Missing is what hurts the most,
Emptiness that grabs the heart
At anytime of night or day
The Missing I fear, is here to stay.

It is a cross that I must bear,
For I know dear son that you are there,
Within the confines of your heavenly home.

The Missing, though it hurts so much,
Will one day be My ticket there.

Though your body is not here,
I see you in your brothers' smiles,
In the way they dress, or laugh, or eat,
The toss of their heads at a joke so neat.

I see you on the paths you trod,
In the flowers by the wayside lanes
Upon the land that you so loved
You are near to us, in all we know.

And so dear son, please pray for me
That I use the Missing wisely, so
I may one day follow you
To your beautiful home called, Heaven.
I Love You

STEPHEN'S GARAGE AT NEW LOCATION

After successfully starting and running his auto repair business for six months at Robbinswood on Rowe Road, Steve Belitsos has relocated his garage just north of Peters Store on Number Nine Road.

The expansion of his business with the need for more room at a better location was forecast by Steve at the Planning Board hearing on his request for a special permit in June. The new location also requires Planning Board approval.

The expansion of Steve's auto repair shop has also required the hiring of another mechanic. David Clark is now employed at the garage to help in the larger volume of repair work. It is a big help for Heath drivers to have a repair service in town and not to have to go off the hill - or be towed!

The new telephone number for Stephen's Garage is 339-6616. The hours are 8 AM to 5 PM.

ROWE SCHOOL NEWS

by Susan Silvester

Principal Paul Swem reports a smooth opening for the 1986-87 academic year.

The annual Open House for parents and members of the community was held on the evening of October 7. Also on that day Rowe Fire Chief Ed May gave a presentation at the school to observe National Fire Prevention Week.

School pictures will be taken this year of all students on Friday, October 24.

THE SOLOMON TEMPLE HOUSE

by Richard Gary

[Editors' note: This is the 22nd in a series of articles on the older houses of Heath published in the HERALD over the past eight years. The present Gary house was built prior to 1771 and is located on the Avery Brook Road.]

The Hicks house, as it is widely known in the town, served as a summer place for Clarence Hicks from 1923 to 1973 when it came into the hands of Richard and Dorothy Gary. On the assumption that the house name change doesn't occur until the present owners' tenure equals that of the predecessor, it will not be known as the Gary place until 2023.

The widespread affectionate regard for Father Hicks reinforces resistance to the change of the name Hicks' place. There are those, we are told, who thought he was the only Episcopal priest in town. There may have even been times when he thought that himself. I asked him once, after looking at the cell-like rooms on the second floor, if he had ever been a member of a religious order, to which he replied, "Oh, no. I'm sort of a one man monastery." His collection of old missals and Anglican artifacts has made worthy additions to several libraries and some of his other memorabilia still grace the old house. The point of mentioning this is that he is regarded as a sort of protector/patron. There are even those who claim to have been aware of his presence in the dark of the night. Hence, we concluded early on that neither Clarence Hicks nor the house that so enshrined his life were forces that you tamper with. Our changes, such as they are, have been cautious adaptations to family needs and we have added only those minimal modernities that we, and our guests, have come to expect. There may be other judgements on these changes but they have not yet been received, so we live with a respectful deference for those who have gone before and for what they have left behind.

Nonetheless, we admit that its venerability has been put to the test by the new group, as extended family, school and work friends have converged to savor its rural strangeness. The old place has however tolerated these invasions and seems back in control of its own destiny. Accommodations are made mostly by people these days as the house insists upon the respect it deserves.

In 1771 Solomon Temple brought the bride of his second marriage to live here. From that known fact we deduce that he either built the house or it already existed in some form. The simple construction of the house, a cottage of post and beam framing, with center chimney that served its three rooms, is consistent with that of other houses of that period in the area. Succeeding generations of Temples lived in the original house for nearly a century. They built, in the course of time, an addition consisting of kitchen, upstairs bedroom, and woodshed. The existing barn and shed also date from the time the Temples lived and farmed on Avery Brook Road.

Their long stay was followed by a series of short term owners who expanded and then reduced the farm boundaries from 125 or so acres down to its present 22. The old stone fences up and down the hillside remind us of how difficult it was to find pasture, not to mention tillable land. This stubborn resilience of the Temples was somehow passed along in the character and quality of what remained.

The most significant physical change occurred in 1919, and shortly thereafter, when Orman Hicks purchased the place. It was by then in extensive disrepair as indicated in the photograph taken at that time. He began a total rehabilitation, preserving the three basic rooms and fireplace but removing the roof and attic of the old house. He then built the present second story of four rooms covered by a gambrel roof. He also brought the first plumbing in to the house fed by gravity from a spring up the hill. The downstairs interior remained the same though repaired, replastered and paneled with pew ends from the old Methodist church in Heath Center.

It remained basically in this condition, though deteriorating somewhat, in Father Hicks' latter years as his health no longer permitted his careful attendance to its needs.

The Garys assumed ownership upon Father Hicks' death in 1973 and moved into the house in 1975. John Woffenden, the dean of local craftsmen, oversaw most of this tenant reconstruction. His fine hand provides its own reminders of his work throughout the house. More recently, when projects beyond the ken of the tenants arose, Bruce Cromack was called in to provide the necessary professional touch.

Now, renovations have reached that point where repairs are called improvements. There being five Garys, it takes five votes to make an improvement so progress has been slowed somewhat. Consensus takes time. The voices and votes of the younger ones have strengthened their sympathy for the old house. They like it, want it as it was, or with reservations, as it is.

What has resulted from the Gary tenure to this point is an effort to preserve the character of the old house, allowing only adaptations necessary for civility and occasional hospitality. In it all we have come to realize that old places have personalities of their own. Each tenant left something behind which in the course of these two centuries is indispensable to the presence of the house. You don't tamper with that, we believe, or you get complaints, but that's the subject of another story.



Solomon Temple House c. 1771

(Photo taken in 1919 by Mabel Hicks)
Loaned by Richard Gary

INFLUENZA IS SERIOUS: GET IMMUNIZED

by Sharleen Moffatt, R.N.
Town Nurse

Influenza is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus. The disease process can vary from mild to severe, and depends on such factors as the individual's susceptibility and general physical condition, as well as the virulence of the strain of flu virus. Most people recover within a week unless there is a complication.

The complication to be feared most is pneumonia which accounts for one-third of the deaths associated with influenza. Other deaths occur among "high risk" persons with underlying chronic diseases such as heart disease. People with these types of chronic illnesses and people over the age of 65 are termed as "High Risk"; that is, they have a greater chance of developing life-threatening complications.

Currently immunization is our most successful tool in preventing influenza. Commercial vaccines are 70 to 90% effective, depending on the strain of viruses in nature. The vaccine is composed of killed viruses given by injection. There have been no side effects for most people from the vaccine, although some have a sore arm for two to four days. Some people will develop minor fever, chills, headache or muscle aches during the first 48 hours after the injection.

If you question the need for you to immunize, check with your family physician.

There will be a free flu vaccination clinic in the Heath Library on October 22, from 8:45 to 11:00 AM. The vaccine is provided free of charge to us by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. I hope to see you there.



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DESCENDENT OF GENERAL HEATH VISITS

On a busy October 1 morning with the Bookmobile unloading volumes of new books at the Library, a stranger appeared at the door of Sawyer Hall and indicated his name was "Heath." It turned out he was William J. Heath, from Hammondsport, NY, who is the fifth great-grandson of General William Heath for whom our town was named in 1785. The name of William has been carried down through five generations.

Mr. Heath and his wife, who were driving back to Hammondsport from a trip to Maine, saw the sign to Heath on the Mohawk Trail and thought they should investigate. They had never been to Heath before.

The Heaths were most interested in the history of the town and its connection with Mr. Heath's ancestor. They made photocopies of the April 1985 issue of the HERALD from the library copy which contained the article on General Heath as well as the story on other towns named Heath (a Bicentennial issue). The Heaths also visited the Old Town House Museum, even though it was thoroughly disrupted with the reconstruction work in progress. Here they saw the communion set given to the town by General Heath. After viewing many other items in the collection which had not been removed or covered, they bought some of the Historical Society publications to take with them.

On leaving they indicated they would return at a future date when our museums were in a more organized condition.

DOG RESTRAINING ORDER

Due to the number of complaints on dogs in Heath Center, the Selectmen have issued an order requiring all dogs in that area to be tied or on a leash. Dogs found to be on the loose after September 22 will be picked up by the Dog Officer at the owner's expense.

The area covered by this order in the Center is defined as within the bounds of (1) on the west, intersection of Rowe and Dell Roads; (2) on the north, Ledges Road where the power line crosses, and the intersection of Bray Road and Colrain Stage Road; (3) on the east, intersection of Avery Brook and Colrain Brook Roads; (4) on the south, the Dickinson farm on South Road.

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LIBRARY LINES

by Alli Thane, Librarian

On September 24 a meeting of the area small town librarians and trustees was held at the Heath Library. Miss Mary King Cross of the Western Massachusetts Regional Library brought us up to date on legislation, grants and other items. She said that in the near future the Bookmobile would be computerized. In other words, the books would be received, returned, recorded and alphabetized by computer, making much less work for the librarian. Also a new budget for VCR cassettes is in and will result in an exchange of tapes to libraries sooner than the usual six weeks.

The Friends of the Library must have a standing ovation for the job they did at the book sale at the Heath Fair! They sold books in a small tent for two days. On Sunday afternoon, when the heavens opened up and the rain poured down, I was sure they would float away - not so! They held the fort and came up with almost \$300 toward our new encyclopedia! Thank you all.

We are still enjoying our TV and VCR on loan from the Western Massachusetts Regional Library. We will be welcoming pre-school children again on Wednesday afternoons with a 20 or 30 minute film. Come and join us.

I'd like to thank Ruth Fournier, my summer senior aide, for all the help she gave me again this summer. Ruth will be returning to her job at the Pre-School and will be missed in the library.

Some of our new books: The Essential Reinhold Niebuhr, edited by Robert McAfee Brown (donated by Frances Malone and reviewed in this issue of the HERALD); It, by Carolyn Slaughter; Secret of a Nightingale, by Victoria Holt; Deer Leap, by Martha Grimes; Through a Glass Darkly, by Karleen Koen; The Christmas Day Kitten, by James Herriot.

Alan L. Nichols

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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

by Pat Leuchtman

The Friends of the Heath Library Book and Bake Sale at the Heath Fair was very successful and raised \$215 towards the purchase of a new encyclopedia. We are grateful to all those who donated books and goodies to the sale and to those who staffed the sale tent. As usual, weather at the Heath Fair was an event itself, but book buyers knew they could stop in at the Friends' tent, browse, read and stay dry.

Fund-raising for the encyclopedia is continuing; I'm delighted to report that an additional \$45 was given to the fund, so we are halfway to our goal. We hope to raise the final \$250 before the end of 1986. There is a new young generation of library users who need an up-to-date encyclopedia to help them with their academic studies.

We welcome new members of the Friends of the Library; dues are only \$1 a year per family. In addition to supporting the Library with your dues, there will also be an opportunity to plan some social-cultural events, write letters in support of library legislation and even help with library chores. Call Pat Leuchtman (337-4316) if you would like to join or if you have any ideas for future projects.

AUTHOR VISITS SCHOOL

by Susan Silvester

Shirley Glubok, award winning author of more than 40 art books for young readers, will be in the Mohawk Trail Regional School District October 15, 16, and 17. She will be visiting local schools to present illustrated lectures on a variety of topics related to art history and archaeology.

The Boston Globe wrote, "Shirley Glubok is racking up an impressive shelf of art books for children. Lavishly illustrated, thoroughly researched and intelligently written, they are a pleasure to read as well as a rich source of fact for young readers." Ms Glubok has been a classroom teacher and is well known for her gallery talks at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. In her travels around the world she has collected material for such diverse subjects as King Tut, Ancient Olympic Games, The Last Stand at Masada, Colonial America, the Art of the Southwest Indians and Knights in Armor. Many of these topics will be the subject of a local lecture during her stay in the school district; community people interested in attending one or more of her presentations may contact the Resource Center at Mohawk Trail Regional School (625-9811) for further information.



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MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS

by Susan Silvester

On September 19 the district Teacher Center sponsored a breakfast meeting for all middle school teachers grades 5-8. The meeting was held at 7:30 AM at Mohawk and was well attended. Plans for future middle school activities for the school year are underway, including a November evening meeting.

No school for students was held on October 8 as teachers spent the day attending a series of in-service workshops. Middle school teachers heard Dr. Sherrie Foster of the University of Maine speak and Dr. Masha K. Rudman of the University of Massachusetts addressed issues in children's literature, to mention only a few of the many options that were available to teachers on that day.

Important dates to remember are:

October 11 Booster Day
October 13 Columbus Day - No School
October 16 Open House
November 7-9 Middle School Musical
November 11 Veterans' Day - No School
November 27 Half a day
November 28,29 Thanksgiving Vacation
December 24-31 Christmas Vacation
January 2 Classes Resume
January 19 Martin Luther King Day - No school
February 16-20 Winter Vacation
March 13-15 10th Annual All School Musical
April 20-24 Spring Vacation*
May 6 All School Fair and Middle School Career Fair
May 25 Memorial Day - No School
June 15 School will close if all requirements are met.

* Four days may be used to make up snow days beyond those already scheduled.

PLAYSCHOOL OPENS AGAIN

by Joan Brownlee

The Heath Playschool began the school year on October 6. Morning and afternoon sessions will be held each Monday through Wednesday. Enrollment is up again this year with 22 children attending from Heath as well as five from Charlemont and two from Shelburne Falls.

The Playschool is pleased to welcome a new head teacher, June Ahearn of Colrain. June has served as a preschool teacher at both the Valley Playschool and Small World. In addition she is an EMT for the Colrain Ambulance. Her husband, Larry, is the Colrain Fire Chief. June will be assisted at the Heath Playschool by Ruth Fournier and Judy Clark, both of Heath.



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A GOOD START AT MOHAWK SCHOOL

by Tanja Davin, Grade 10

The 1986-87 school year at Mohawk began with a number of changes. Every class, nine through twelve, found their homeroom schedule had been altered. The students were now meeting in their homerooms after "A" period rather than prior to the first class of the day.

Approximately 50 new teenagers have joined the Mohawk population. This number includes two exchange students; Christina Ghelfi from Italy, an AFS student staying with Kate Vetter of Greenfield, and Irena Martinovic visiting from Yugoslavia, who is making her home with Maia Magee of Colrain.

Plans for Booster Day are being made by all. Each class has started designing its float for the Booster Day Parade on October 11. The Booster Day schedule in its entirety is as follows:

1. Spirit Week: October 6-10. It will include Cowboy and Indian Day (in which students dress either as cowboys or Indians) and four other exciting masquerades. On Friday everyone is expected to wear the traditional blue and gold school colors.

2. The Mohawk Pep Rally and Bonfire: Friday, October 10 (PM).

3. Booster Day Parade and Game. On Saturday, October 11, the Mighty Mohawks will compete against Turners.

4. Victory Dance: The Class of 1987 will sponsor this event which will occur on Saturday night, October 11.

The Sixth Annual Middle School Musical is Annie Get Your Gun with Jessica Larkin and Jeff Magee as the leads.

All in all, the year has gotten off to a wonderful start. There are exciting new developments, but the favorite traditional events are still carrying on. This will more than likely be the best year at Mohawk Trail Regional High yet.

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GROWING PAINS

by HERALD Staff

The second of the Round Table Discussions conceived and arranged by Selectmen's Board chairman Richard Giard was held at the Community Hall on September 17. The topic was Town Growth. Some two dozen town residents were present, together with the three Selectmen, representatives of the Finance, School and Conservation Committees, the Planning Board, a couple of reporters and three guest speakers: Elizabeth Kidder of the Franklin County Department of Regional Planning, Peter Westover, Director of the Town of Amherst's Conservation Department, and Hill Liebert of the State Department of Public Health.

The 2 1/2 hour meeting was more of a seminar than a round-table discussion. Although there was some useful audience participation the intimacy of the inaugural meeting in this series was lacking. And the proceedings were not helped by the acoustical deficiencies of the upper room of the Community Hall.

Ms Kidder reported that Heath is the second fastest growing town in all of Franklin County based on a comparison of figures in the 1980 Federal and 1985 State Censuses, which showed that our town's population increased over that 5-year period by 48 - from 482 to 530.

Ms Kidder went on to explain that Heath's No. 2 place in the Growth League was based upon the Franklin County towns' respective increases. And Heath's 10 percent increase was, of course, a percentage of a relatively small figure. Indeed, although this was not brought out in the discussion, a "provisional" study released last month by the Massachusetts Institute of Economic and Social Research (MISER) projected that, between 1985 and 1995, the population of Heath will grow by only 9 (from 530 to 539). (The MISER report was evidently compiled before the development on Number Nine Road got under way.). Does this mean that we should be suspicious of all such statistical guide-posts? Ms Kidder, along with her two fellow speakers, said "No." In simple terms the message she and her colleagues brought us was that growth management (the management of "rural sprawl") is already a problem for most if not all towns like ours, and that you can never put off planning. It is vitally necessary in successful planning to secure adequate input from the residents of the town as a whole and to ensure that there is effective liaison between all the many town boards and departments concerned.

Examples of the importance of communication and cooperation among town departments were offered by Stephen Judge, the County Building Inspector. Lengthy discussion ensued about building and health codes, the problems and merits of master zoning plans, wetlands and the on-going nature of the planning process.

All three speakers recognized the problems facing the smaller towns, whose governments are already seriously over-burdened and where technical expertise is often lacking. Mr. Liebert warned, however, that help is not always easy to obtain from the appropriate State Boards, some of which are themselves under-staffed. One of the recommendations he offered was that towns get together, as Erving, Warwick and several other towns in the same area have done, in various cooperative approaches to common problems of local government. Mr. Liebert reminded the audience of the role that the Franklin County Commissioners could usefully play in this connection.

Ms Kidder's parting message was a recapitulation of the underlying theme: Towns like Heath must first try to arrive at a consensus as to what sort of place they want to be - 10 or 20 years from now - and they must then select the tools to achieve this. And, above all, they must recognize that the time to start is now.



Heath Center from the Air

Awarded 2nd Prize at Heath Fair

(Photo taken by Michael Peters)

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise noted)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dump*: Mondays 10 AM - 2 PM Wednesdays 1 - 7 PM
(After October 25-Wednesdays 10 - 4)
Saturdays 9 AM - 5 PM
*(Permit required - see Town Clerk)

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

by Susan Silvester, Secretary

On Saturday, October 11, a hike between Fort Shirley in Heath and Fort Morrison in Colrain will take place. The trail will follow the old military road used in 1744. All interested hikers are welcome and should meet at 8:30 AM in the field across from the Newland Smith place on the East Oxbow (Hosmer Road) where parking is available. The hike will be led by Michael and Sophie Coe and Nancy Williams who blazed the trail last week. Bring a picnic lunch and any nourishment needed to sustain yourself on the six mile rugged hike. Transportation will be provided from Fort Morrison back to Heath early in the afternoon.

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## FOOTWEAR

According to Rev. Pleas, the Heath-Rowe Youth Group has made a great start on what promises to be a good year. So far the Group has held two meetings and has begun plans for more events. In the next two months there will be a roller-skating party, a Walkathon for Hunger, a Spaghetti Supper fund-raiser, a bowling party and a Haunted House Halloween party. Rev. Pleas will also conduct three retreats during the year and the young people have already started planning for a "Youth Sunday" on March 1 when the Group will conduct the service of worship. All Junior High students (7 and 8th grades) from Heath and Rowe are invited to become members of the Youth Group. The next meeting of the Group will be on Sunday, October 12, for either a bowling or a roller skating party. For more information on the Youth Group, call Kevin Pleas (337-5755).

## HARDWOOD & SOFTWOOD SLABS



## BOOKS ON NIEBUHR REVIEWED

by William Wolf

The celebration of Heath's Bicentennial generated the sign: Stone Cottage-1933--Reinhold Niebuhr. Since then the Niebuhr revival has swept on to the national and world stage. There it has found expression in two books that may interest Heath readers: (1) Reinhold Niebuhr: A Biography by Richard Fox (Pantheon Books '85) and (2) The Essential Reinhold Niebuhr: Essays and Addresses edited and introduced by Robert McAfee Brown (Yale University Press '86).

There are numerous marks of Niebuhr on our town, some more significant than others. In the vestibule of the Heath Church is a framed, embroidered copy of his Serenity Prayer that has almost become a sacred text in the movement of Alcoholics Anonymous:

"God give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other."

As a student-pastor then of the Heath Church I distinctly remember hearing Niebuhr speaking this prayer. At the end of the service Howard Chandler Robbins walked forward to borrow the text and thus launched it on its way.

Ursula Niebuhr, Reinhold's devoted wife and now retired professor of the Bible at Barnard College, recently shared the letters which he wrote to her from Mrs. Moor's Manse (now owned by James Coursey) where "Reinee", as all his students called him, was taking care of young Christopher. We learn that in trying to throw his ball over the roof of the "E" Chris broke a window pane which his father insisted on replacing himself. Perhaps in some future celebration of Heath's history the Historical Society may wish to identify and mark that pane!

In our house may also be found the Niebuhrs' bunk beds for their children given us as our family increased since Eleanor was a student of Ursula's and also their occasional baby-sitter in New York City. In Heath also Bob Brown successfully courted Sydney who worked for the Niebuhrs one summer as live-in baby-sitter. The late John Porter preached one sermon in each of two summers on Reinhold Niebuhr and planned to write a book about his thought. John Porter felt that the Heath Church might well emulate the Congregational Church at Stockbridge with its annual lecture or sermon on Jonathan Edwards. Edwards and Niebuhr are probably the most significant theologians in American history.

The Fox book has made a place for itself as the first biography by an author who did not know Niebuhr. Its strength is a vigorous wrestling with Niebuhr's activities and writings. One can see a great human being making up his mind, often changing it later and moving on to other challenges. Fox's limitations are lack of an evaluation of Niebuhr's theological contributions, a curiously mechanical attitude toward his family, and obtuseness about his strokes.

Bob Brown's Introduction supplies just that understanding view of family that is missing in Fox. The essays by Niebuhr have been carefully chosen and include such subjects as the assurance of grace, the church in a secular age, witness in the social and national order, Augustine's political realism, the relations of Christians and Jews, and the interconnection of mystery and meaning. Also included is the deeply personal "A View of Life from the Sidelines" not published in his lifetime. In it he writes of the "tremendous debt" due "to our old

friend Hannah Burrington of Heath . . . who stayed with my wife and me every summer and gave me twice-daily treatments."

Last spring I used Bob Brown's selections from Niebuhr as discussion material for a seminar and was delighted to see students discover the relevance of his prophetic Biblical thought for the problems of today.

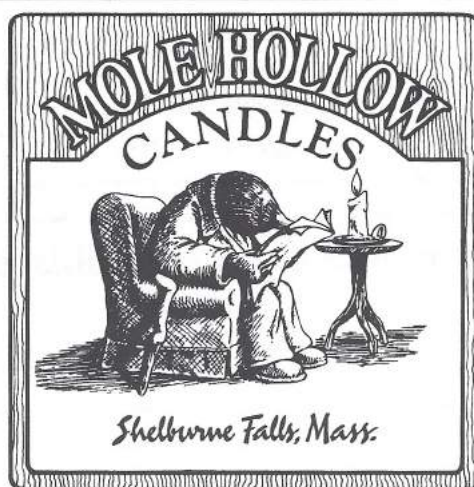
## ANOTHER HEATH WRITER

by Caroline Smith

Heath now has another author in town - Mike Bakalar, after founding and successfully establishing the West County News some seven years ago, has sold his paper and plans to write a book - maybe fiction or non-fiction.

After commuting from New York to Heath for weekends and summers for many years, Mike and his wife Elsa settled permanently in Heath about 10 years ago. Calling on his background in public relations and advertising, one of Mike's first ventures up here was producing paper table mats for area restaurants, financed by local advertisements printed on them. Although the innovative idea was successful, there was a limit to the volume of this business in the area. At the same time, Mike had helped the volunteer staff of the HEATH HERALD get started and was instrumental in obtaining the initial group of advertisers, making the publication possible. As a result of these contacts in the valley, business people in the area wondered why Mike could not bring his expertise to them. As a result, and with their support, Mike established the Shelburne Falls and West County News in 1979 which with much hard work and long days and nights on Mike's part grew and became profitable.

As a neighbor I became used to seeing Mike drive by at all hours and in all kinds of weather to report, to take photos and, in general, to cover the "waterfront." I also watched concern showing on his face and the effort taking its toll. So it is with some relief that I can now think of Mike with another job well done, sitting at his home computer with word processor, enjoying the next phase of a successful writing career.



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## HEATH COMMUNITY HALL

The Community Hall basement has received a face-lift. The main part of the floor has been carpeted and the remainder painted as well as the cement block walls. It is hoped this will improve both the warmth and moisture problems as well as improve the acoustics of the room. The carpeting was donated by the Rowe School when new carpeting was installed there this past summer.

The Hall use continues to be heavy; in fact it was difficult to find consecutive days to allow the paint to dry! There are regular requests for the use of kitchen equipment, chairs or tables. The Hall Committee intends to continue the practice of generally not loaning Hall equipment out. However, it is recognized that residents occasionally may need a coffee urn, a table, or chairs for meetings at the town hall. Each request will be considered on its individual merit.

A reminder to Hall users: The Hall must be returned to its normal set up after each use; that is, tables and chairs must be set up on the carpeted area downstairs and the chair sections must be set up along the walls of the open floor space upstairs.

Reservations for use of the Hall must be made in advance by calling Mary Smith 337-4733. She can also give you the rates for your particular use.

Hall Committee:

Lynn Miller, Dolly Churchill, Sheila Litchfield

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL WAGON TRAIN

Carroll Stowe's Wagon Train enjoyed its sixth anniversary on Saturday, September 27 - maybe the best of all, due partly to the weather, the number and diversity of the participants and a new route.

First, the weather held fair and bright for the two-day event. About 50 people of all ages from as far away as Connecticut and New York gathered at the Heath Fairgrounds for a weekend of horse talk, good fellowship and rides through Heath's bright fall foliage.

The half-mile train of farm wagons, road carts, a four wheeled buggy and horseback riders made a leisurely trip up to Burnt Hill for a picnic on Saturday; then back to the Fairgrounds for a potluck supper, singing and campout. On Sunday another ride through South Heath and back on Royer Road and Long Hill Road ended their annual get-together.

Carroll Stowe is to be congratulated on his efforts in organizing and establishing such a successful event in Heath.

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## MARBLES MADE IN HEATH

Bob Dane who has been making glass marbles at his Heath Brook Studios, along with his glass sculpture work, is exhibiting some of his marble work at the New England Antique Marble Meet in South Attleboro, MA, on October 12. This meet is sponsored by the Marble Collectors Society of America (MCSA) and will be attended by collectors from across the country. The collections include both antique and modern marbles.

Earlier this year the MCSA spent two days here in Heath at Bob's studio videotaping his marble making and glass studio. The final edited tape will consist of a one hour program devoted exclusively to Bob's work. It will be made available to libraries, museums and clubs at a later date.

The Heath Brook Studios will hold their 2nd Annual Open House in Heath on December 6 and 7 from 10 to 4. On Saturday the 6th, Bob will be giving glassblowing demonstrations including marble making in his furnace shop. Jayne Dane will also have many of her woven ash baskets on display and other items will be on sale for Christmas gifts.

## HEATH COUNCIL ON AGING

by Sheila Litchfield

The Heath Council on Aging has received a small grant from the Massachusetts Department of Elder Affairs. The money is intended to enhance projects and programs for Heath residents over 60 years of age. Projects include the purchase of large print books and "talking books" for the library; transportation to the Blood Pressure Clinic here in town for those unable to drive; and the dissemination of information such as Medicare changes, osteoporosis, and other nutritional concerns; exciting tours, trips, etc.

We have a small group of residents interested in putting their heads together on these and other projects, but we need your help. All ideas are welcome. This is a nice way to become involved in a project that directly benefits Heath residents. Please plan to attend our organizational meeting on Wednesday, October 15, at 7:30 PM at the Community Hall.

*at the Bridge of Flowers!*



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# THE GOLDEN MOYER FAMILY SPEND WINTER OF 1925-26 IN HEATH

by Grace Moyer Share - 1986

## Introduction by Golden Moyer

Mrs. Grace Share, author of the following account is a grandniece of the Misses Mary and Flora White. Her grandfather was Joe White, a brother of the Misses White. We believe that this will adequately serve to identify her to the people of Heath. Grace last visited Heath in 1938 when she spent the summer with Miss Flora.

Mr. Golden Moyer Jr., brother of Mrs. Share, and his wife, Florence, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, visited Heath on August 5, 1986. It had been sixty years since he had been in Heath. The Moyers' visit was completely unannounced, but they were made most welcome by Mr. and Mrs. John Read at Plover Hill. The Moyers were very happy and much impressed to find Heath's many historic buildings and sites much as Mr. Moyer remembered them in 1926, and the visit provided an opportunity for him to see and to talk with former classmates at the Heath school whom his father had taught for one term.

\* \* \*

On August 1, 1925 Mother, Dad, five children ranging from ten to one and our dog, Jiggs, left the family farm north of Gage, Oklahoma, for Heath, Mass., where we were to visit Mother's aunts, the Misses Mary and Flora White, until late in the next spring.

The car, an Overland, was so heavily loaded that I remember hitting the high centers in the road. Jiggs rode a front fender propped against the engine hood.

The trip was very interesting with thrilling new adventures for us children and happy stop-overs with friends and relatives along the way. Each night we camped out and, if we were fortunate enough to find a campground with hot water, Mother would do the family wash and hang it to dry while we children ran off some of our energy. Dad prepared supper on a Coleman burner and food never tasted better. The next morning, after breakfast was finished, the laundry packed away, a picnic lunch prepared and we had our last swing or slide, we were on our way.

We entered Massachusetts on the Mohawk Trail Highway. From Charlemont it was a five mile up-hill drive to the little town of Heath. The woods with ferns, wintergreen, springs, brooks and frequent apple orchards gave the air a pleasant odor.

Aunt Mary and Aunt Flora had the lower level of their farm home ready for us (now the present yellow Howland house in Heath Center), with an additional bedroom built over part of the wood and spring house, which was attached to the kitchen.

Heath still felt the influence of the city, as many of the summer residents had not left yet. Aunts Mary and Flora were living at Plover Hill caring for a few boys with the help of a cook and housekeeper.

New experiences for us were using spring water pumped to the house by a hydraulic ram and picking green lima beans, blueberries and apples. Dad took apples to the press and had cider made. He had no preservative added. When it was evident that we no longer had sweet cider, some of the natives told Dad he should add raisins, which he did, and I am certain he knew what the outcome would be. We had the best hard cider by spring, except for the bottles that exploded, and a second barrel with a preservative gave us the best sweet cider all winter.

All at once the population of Heath was cut in half. The summer people went back home, the hills became brilliant with their fall colors and Aunt Mae and Aunt Flora moved into the apartment upstairs. The doors of the schoolhouse (Center School) just west of our Aunts' farmhouse, opened with Dad as its teacher-grades 1 through 8. Some of our classmates were Ernest Kinsman, Edith and Robert Coates, Richard and Robert Tanner, Ruth and David Dixon, Henry Varney, Esther Dickinson and Donald Peon.

George and Marion Peon managed the post office and the small general store. Ernest Fontaine drove the small hack (stage from Shelburne Falls). Rev. Dixon was pastor of the Congregational Church. Pearle Tanner was the organist. I remember Ella and Henry Churchill who lived nearby, the Peter Royers, the Varneys and the Burringtons.

Winter was very different from a winter in Oklahoma. All of the snow prompted Dad to buy us sleds and skis. Dad especially enjoyed the skiing. On school days we'd go skiing or sledding after we'd had our lunch and sometimes it would be way late before we would remember to go back to school. I can't remember any serious consequences as a result.

Some of the events during the nine months that we were in Heath which impressed me were the Halloween party in the Burringtons' barn with ghosts, goblins and witches among the bales of hay (I felt as though I were with Alice in Wonderland), the maple sugar feast at the Varneys' (maple syrup was boiled down and then poured on pans of snow to harden), sleigh rides for the entire family, Christmas with stockings hung by a real fireplace, a Christmas package from Dad's brother, Edward, containing leather mittens for all seven. We children wore the mittens to church on Christmas Day and didn't take them off but displayed them on the back of the pew in front of us.

Spring came, finding Dad eager to return to the Oklahoma prairie, so in the latter part of May we started our trip home and again there was much to see and many new experiences.

Washington, DC, was of particular interest. We shook hands with President Calvin Coolidge, we heard the 2 cent stamp being discussed in the House of Representatives and our cousin, Charles David White, chief curator at the Smithsonian, took us on a special tour at the Institute.

On finally returning to the windy prairie of northwest Oklahoma, I am sure we all knew that we had a really fun year. Certainly, in looking back during the many subsequent years, we have come to realize the great privilege and value afforded by our trip to Heath and our visit there.

## FOREST MANAGEMENT

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## REPORT FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER

by Linda Marcotte

The Assessors have just received permission from the state to issue estimated Fiscal 1987 Tax bills and the necessary changes have been submitted to LHS (the computer company who prints the bills for us). I expect to have the bills in the mail by November 1 if all goes well. Payment on these estimated bills will be one half of the 1986 bill and due 30 days from date of issue which is printed on the bill. It should be noted that interest will be charged on late payments.

I advertised in September, as a step in the tax-taking procedure, the names of 35 delinquent taxpayers and will be recording liens on the 21 taxpayers whose arrears still remained unpaid as of September 23. I have managed to collect a good part of the taxes owed through 1984 and now will be contacting those who promised payment and are not paying as agreed and those who owe for 1985 and 1986.

During the month of October the Demand Fee added on demand notices will increase to \$5.00 per bill from the current \$2.00. It is hoped that this increase will encourage people to pay their tax and excise bills on time to avoid this charge.

We have not yet heard from the state about the grant application we submitted during the summer, but Susan Wright believes we have a good chance of receiving the funding. The grant would purchase the software necessary to put the accounting system and the Assessors' records on the computer. Once the Assessors' records are on the computer we hope to print the tax bills ourselves and we should be able to automatically keep track of payments and any amounts still owed and as well as to send out more frequent demands.



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## ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Steve Belitsos

The Board has recently completed the land/price schedule for Mohawk Estates and is currently reviewing new construction in town. With the completion of this review, the FY '87 revaluation process will be essentially complete and taxpayers can look forward to receiving their corrected tax bills in May.

Although complete and ready for mailing, the estimated tax bills for FY '87 are being held up pending the passage of appropriate state legislation authorizing the Board to issue estimated tax notices. Until such legislation is passed and notice of its passage received from the Department of Revenue, the Assessors do not have the statutory authority to issue estimated bills. However, such approval is expected momentarily.

The Heath Assessors are currently meeting every Monday night from 7 to 9 PM. The members of the Board are involved in clearing up a certain amount of old business with respect to prior tax bills and would like to remind taxpayers that it is in their best interests to bring to our attention any concern about excise and property taxes as soon as possible after receipt (or non-receipt) of the tax bill in question. A timely inquiry will, in most cases, lead to a timely solution.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Chief Earl Gleason

Our first chimney fire of this fall season occurred on September 16 at an East Oxbow home. The EMT's were sent to aid the Charlemont Ambulance on August 21 and August 30.

The search for new EMT's for the Charlemont Ambulance has reached the point where a training course started on September 30. This course requires 80 hours of instruction and will end sometime in January. Heath has four people taking the course.

The Fire Association wishes to thank everyone who helped with our endeavors at the Heath Fair. The rain on Sunday dampened our money-raising some but all told the Fair was reasonably successful. The EMT's working in the First Aid got a bonus when they responded to a Colrain emergency when Colrain had difficulty locating enough EMT's.

The Fire Association would also like to thank Harry and Nancy Briggs and John Henry who assisted the Firemen in putting on the Yankee Atomic Picnic at the Fairgrounds. The Picnic was planned by Sheila Litchfield and was a success. The money raised from such projects as above is used to buy turnout gear (coats, boots, helmets, gloves, etc.) and other items not normally purchased through the town budget.

Two drills were held since the last report in the HERALD as well as two Association meetings. The Chief attended a three hour class on procedures in accidents dealing with radioactive materials. Also four firefighters are attending the Mass. Fire Academy mini-course in Shelburne on September 20, 27, October 4 and 11.

Three smoke detector inspections were made in the past two months.

Fire Prevention Week October 5 - October 11

Let's make Fire Prevention Week last until it becomes Fire Prevention YEAR.

## FROM THE SELECTMEN

by Richard Giard, Chairman  
Heath Board of Selectmen

The past two months have been fairly quiet as far as extra business goes. We have had some concern brought to our attention about speeding and the amount of traffic on certain roads. We will be taking action on the Planning Board recommendations for speed and stop sign posting and will send them on to the state for approval.

The steps in front of the Town Hall have been repaired; and the stairs for the fire door in the Library will be completed soon. We still have to complete the carpeting in the Grange Hall and put up shelving there for the old office books as well as shelving in the upstairs closet.

The Selectmen are considering moving their office into the Grange Hall upstairs in order to make more room downstairs for the Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Post Office. Your comments on this will be welcomed.

About 30 people attended the Town Forum on the subject of town growth, September 17 at the Community Hall. We were fortunate to have Elizabeth Kidder, the Franklin County Planner, Peter Westover from the Amherst Conservation Commission, and Hill Liebert, the Director of Public Health for Western Massachusetts, speak at the Forum. The message delivered was to incorporate input from the three concerned town boards for a set-by-step planning program which should then be presented to the town for review and comment. This would then show action instead of reaction to the situation the town would face in the future. All of this could then become part of a master plan to guide and manage the type of growth the town will take.

The Selectmen have appointed Catherine Nichols to be Town Clerk, filling the unexpired term of Joanne Fournier who resigned as of October 1. Joanne will continue as Selectmen's Clerk. We wish to thank Joanne for her service to the town.

On September 29, we met with John Churchill, John Krawczyk, Franklin County Engineer, and Susan Wright, our Shared Administrative Assistant, on Avery Brook Road to inspect the bridges and to determine the need for replacing the bridges with box culverts. There are three bridges on Avery Brook Road and one large culvert on Jacksonville Stage Road that we will discuss with the D.P.W. office in Northampton to see if they will qualify under the aid to small bridges program.

It is planned to put oil and stone on 0.7 mile of the Colrain Stage road this fall. Also a total of 2 miles will be paved on Dell Road and Colrain Mountain Road.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by David F. Howland

There have been some interesting financial developments affecting the Town of Heath during the first quarter. Generally they appear to bode well for this budget year, but the uncertainties of pending obligations suggest cautious optimism.

First, the state will be awarding a grant to the town for achieving certain educationally related funding standards of the Rowe School. The amount is approximately \$29,000. Secondly, the town does not have any loan obligations outstanding except the last \$4000 payment on a ten-year loan for the rebuilding of Sawyer Hall. We have the funds to pay our bills for the first quarter.

Offsetting these encouraging signs are some unexpectedly high insurance premiums; we are looking into these. Also the Rowe School budget voted at the annual town meeting did not consider any dramatic increase in enrollment nor additional bus transportation costs brought on by state regulations. However, it is too early in the year to predict how that budget will be affected by these factors. To date this effect has been modest.

It is apparent that public reimbursements are a major source of income; they are also unpredictable. The FinCom supports the Selectmen's efforts via the round table discussions to develop some sense of direction for the town and other problems such as roads and coping with growth. It is vital in our opinion that the town's tax base be broadened in order to provide adequate income and some degree of tax rate stability.

## PLANNING BOARD REPORT

by Robert Dane, Secretary

Two months ago the Planning Board voted to meet every Monday in order to speed work on the Subdivision Regulations. Due to summer vacations and the Fire Warden's dinner we were not able to meet every week, but we still made some progress on the Subdivision Regulations, and held a public hearing for another Special Permit for Steve Belitsos' garage.

We decided to divide the Subdivision Regulations into sections with each member researching and writing a section at home, to be brought to the meeting for discussion by the whole board. These will be put onto the computer for arrangement and editing. So far we have done the procedures and the definitions sections, with administration and road standards remaining.

We have also been discussing the formation of a task force to study the possibility of developing a Master Plan for the town. This suggestion is a result of the round table meeting of town boards. One job of the task force might be to find out exactly what a Master Plan is and how much weight it would carry in managing town growth. We will be acting on this at our next meeting.

On September 8 we held a Public Hearing for Steve Belitsos' Special Permit. He has moved his garage to Number Nine Road, next to Peters Store. Support was expressed by the people who attended the hearing for Steve's endeavor. The only reservations were about the parking situation, especially in the winter. Steve is working on this, and we expect to act on the Special Permit at our next meeting, on October 6.

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# HEATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

by Bill Lattrell, Chairman

The Heath Conservation Commission has been quite busy since our last report in the HEATH HERALD. Most of our activity has been in relation to the Notice of Intent filed by H.T. Associates on the Wetlands on their Number Nine Road property which we received in August. We set a hearing date of September 5. There was much preparation necessary to get ready for this hearing. The plans and exhibits had to be thoroughly studied and researched so that the Commission felt well prepared for the hearing. Concurrently the Selectmen, acting as the Board of Health, received a copy of the Notice of Intent filed with the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering. Since the plans of the Notice revealed that lot lines were to be changed and locations of leachfields were to be moved, the Board of Health issued a letter requiring new percolation tests consistent with the proposed changes.

Shortly before the hearing date, the Chairman of the Conservation Commission received a request to postpone the hearing for two to three weeks. The reason was based on the need for additional time to research new options being considered by representatives of H.T. Associates.

At the hearing held on September 5, the Commission explained to the attending public that a continuance had been requested. It was voted to recess and continue the hearing on September 24. An informational meeting was then held presenting the plans that had been submitted. Those attending asked questions specific to the Wetlands Protection Act and its application to this Notice of Intent.

At the reconvened hearing on September 24, representatives of H.T. Associates were present along with interested Heath citizens. Edward Lawson, an environmental lawyer, presented on behalf of H.T. Associates an amended Notice of Intent which kept the boundaries of the original lot lines in place. The presentation was made lot by lot (lots 1a - 4a in question) for the sake of clarity.

The highlights of the presentation were:

A. On Lot 1a, the filling of 4700 square feet of wetland to give proper distances for the proposed leachfield from the wetland. This filling of the wetland is to be replaced by the addition of 4900 square feet of man made wetland connected to the west side of the existing wetland.

B. On Lot 2a, the filling and addition of wetlands in the same manner.

C. On Lot 3a, a negative determination was requested based on the idea that work was being done only in the 100 foot buffer zone.

D. On Lot 4a, a negative determination was requested based on the perception by H.T. Associates that the boundaries marked were incorrect. It was their contention that the intermittent stream that was part of the boundary was not, by legal definition, an intermittent stream.

E. The erection of siltation fences to prevent siltation pollution on all of the proposed work.

Following H.T. Associates' presentation a 15 minute recess was held to give the public a chance to examine the amended plans. The second part of the meeting gave the public a chance to make comments on the proposal being set forth. There were several questions about the construction of a man-made wetland, and comments as to whether the wetland needed to be disturbed at all.

Finally the Conservation Commission set their next regular meeting date for October 3 when the proposal, citizens' comments and research on the Notice was evaluated.

At this meeting the Commission acted on the proposal as follows: On Lot 4a a negative determination was issued, voiding it from the Wetlands regulations. On Lot 3a the request of H.T. Associates was denied. On Lots 1a and 2a the request to replicate 4700 square feet in each lot was denied on the basis that the Wetlands Act provides for the total replication of a total of only 5000 square feet in the whole area. It is left now that H.T. Associates can either make an appeal to the DEQE or else submit a further modified plan.

In other business the Commission approved a request from the town to remove debris and re-channel a portion of Taylor Brook so that the existing erosion condition will not interfere with Taylor Brook Road. The proposal called for pumping the brook water around the work while it is in progress so as not to pollute the water. This proposal was approved at our August meeting when presented by Selectman Richard Giard. The work will most likely be done this fall.

## TOWN OFFICERS AT WORK

Heath is fortunate to have elected town officers who are willing to spend their own time on town projects other than their official duties.

On a recent day in September, a volunteer crew was seen installing floor carpeting on the Community Hall floor. The carpeting had been given to the town by the Rowe School when it was replaced there with new carpeting. The volunteer crew, led by Selectman Chairman Richard Giard, included Selectman Walt Gleason, Assessor Alan Nichols and parents of the Playschool children. The crew, apparently experienced in this type of work, not only prepared the floor by cleaning it, applying glue, trimming the carpeting to fit, but laid it, rolling it in place. Following this work Dolly Churchill and Lynn Miller of the Hall Committee came in and painted the small remaining floor area and the cement block walls.

Improvements to the room are already apparent in its warmth and improved acoustics, particularly during a dinner or at a meeting.

Carpeting has also been laid out in Grange Hall on the second floor of Sawyer Hall. When it is finally put in place this room will provide an improved selectmen's room as well as being available for small committee meetings.

All of this at no cost to the town.

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## MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Rebecca Wilson was born on July 27 to Priscilla and Christian Brackett of Duxbury. Rebecca is the great granddaughter of Elizabeth Wilson of Heath.

Alyssa Marie was born on August 22 to Denise and Jay Sessions of Plainfield. Alyssa is the granddaughter of Joan Sumner and Norman Sessions and the great granddaughter of Dorothy Sessions, all of Heath.

Elizabeth Anne Eldridge and Mark Dakoulas of Manchester, NH, were married on August 9 in the Heath Church with a garden reception at the home of the bride's grandmother, Betty Eldridge. Beth is the daughter of Carol and Elsom Eldridge, Jr. The Eldridges have been summer residents of Heath for many years.

Crystal Peters was married to Robert Griswold on August 10 at an outdoor ceremony followed by a reception at the Community Hall. Crystal is the daughter of Teresa and Cleon Peters of Heath. Robert is from Shelburne Falls where the couple are living.

Catherine Piemonte and Douglas Wilkins were married on August 10 in an outdoor ceremony at the Manse followed by a reception on the lawn. Cathy and Doug are living in North Heath.

Hilma Churchill Kuzmeskus of Toccoa Falls, GA, was married on August 16 to Benjamin Keith Ayers of Eastanollee, GA, in the Poplar Springs Baptist Church in Lavonia, GA, with a reception in the church. Hilma is the daughter of Ruth and Clyde Churchill of Heath.

Brenda Cromack and James Gallagher were married on September 20 in the Heath Church with a reception at the home of the bride's parents Catherine and Bruce Cromack of Heath. Brenda is the granddaughter of Hannah Burrington. The couple are living in Greenfield.

Grace Landstrom died on August 21 in the Franklin Medical Center. She leaves three daughters; Ada Duffy of Saugus, Pearl Churchill of Shelburne and Ruth Johnson of Heath. She also leaves 13 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Grace was a life-long resident of Heath.

Victor Vreeland died on August 26 in the Franklin Medical Center. He leaves his wife Doris of Charlemont. Victor lived in Heath for many years and had many friends in town.



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## HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Michael D. Smith, son of Peter Smith of Heath, has entered the Air Force Delayed Enlistment Program. Michael, a 1987 graduate from Mohawk Trail High School, will leave for basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas on July 1, 1987. Michael will receive technical training in the general aptitude career field.

Polly Malone, a niece of Helen Nichols, and her husband Steve McDonald graduated from Veterinary School in Texas and now have an animal clinic in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Polly writes that the county fair there is smaller than the Heath Fair. Johnny, Steve's son, showed a steer and won several prizes with his dog in Obedience Training, and in the Pet Show. Polly hopes to introduce Horse Drawing.

Betty Chapin Ernst and Ruth Chapin Gower visited Heath recently on a nostalgic trip. Betty and Ruthie are the daughters of Dr. and Mrs. Laurence Chapin who owned and spent many summers at what is now the Mackie house in Heath Center.



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