



VOLUME 12 NUMBER 4

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1990

# HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 50¢

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield

September has come and our kids are off to school each morning. "Hurray", say the parents. "Wheew", say teachers, administrators and school committee members. No one can remember a year when there was so much uncertainty and last minute (or continuing) scrambling about budgets and staffing. We all hoped that after a terrible budget process in the spring, our shrunken budgets would hold steady during the summer, allowing time for (in many cases) shrunken staffs to prepare for opening day. The late August 4% State budget cut laid all those plans to waste.

Our preschool opened with at least a \$2,500 deficit. This may be made up by fees charged to parents. The high school has opened without Latin classes, metal and wood shops, a cooking program and fewer German classes. These are cuts beyond those made in the spring. Fortunately, the situation at the Rowe School is more stable. The school Committee thanks all the teachers and administrators who have worked extra hours at the last minute to open our schools in the best shape possible.

### Equal Education Opportunity Grant (EEO):

In June, Heath was told that through the impressive efforts of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Willard, and the Business Manager, Mr. Newell, we had received the first-ever waiver related to EEO grant requirements. This would have allowed us to accept approximately \$53,000 in FY90 and the same amount again in FY91. In July Mr. Willard received another letter from the Commissioner saying "the deal was off". This would have cost us over \$106,000 in two years. In late August, two days before school was to begin both Mr. Willard and Mr. Newell had a face-to-face meeting with the Commissioner. After hours of debate they were able to secure our FY90 grant and leave the door open on the FY91 money. This type of extra effort is both admirable and necessary. Thanks, Bruce and Dave.

### Long Range Planning:

In late August the Heath/Rowe Regional School District Planning Board decided to consider a Kindergarten through sixth grade school system in place of the K-12 district previously under consideration. This change leaves open the possibility of future expansion to a K-12 district and would allow Heath to remain a member of Mohawk for at least the time being. Although this change will cost a few percentage points worth of state aid, the advantages lie in simplifying a legally complex part of the agreement and saving some time.

Continued on page 3

## THE WAGON TRAIN ROLLS AGAIN

by Wagon Master Carroll Stowe

Columbus Day weekend 1981 was a beautiful fall weekend, a bit cool but otherwise nice. There were five units of Wagon vehicles, some horseback riders and one yoke of cattle that comprised the 1981 edition of the Wagon Train. It started in the field near Doug Wilkins' and proceeded down past Doug's to Route 8A and along 8A to Jacobs Road and back onto 8A to the Ben Road and thence to the Fairgrounds.

Our first plan was to go to my brother's farm in Halifax, VT, by way of the forestry road to Route 112 and the North River. Unfortunately there was no fordway to cross North River and with the open decked bridge it was rather foolish to try to coax horses across said bridge. So instead we went to the Fairgrounds.

That was a good start for an event that has grown to unbelievable proportions. It is most difficult to define the best part of the Wagon Train. I enjoy people and animals and good food and the conversations of those of like interests and all of those requirements have been present at each Wagon Train.

Each year we see new faces and some that have been with us almost from the start and there are those that have attended each event. I mentioned

Continued on page 3



CARROLL STOWE, ZEUS, AND BOB MARKERT  
TAKE A BREAK  
(Photo by Mike Peters)

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- October 11 Mohawk Middle School Open House  
7-9 PM
- October 13 Heath & Rowe Historical Societies  
annual hike. Meet 10 AM by state park on Route 2  
in Charlemont.
- October 13 & 14 Academy at Charlemont all day car  
wash and craft fair.
- October 15 Deadline to call Fire Chief for  
chimney cleaning by Fire Department.
- October 15-19 School Bus Safety Week
- October 17 Early release Rowe School.
- October 18 Park Commission mtg. 7:30 PM  
CLT Public Forum 7 PM MTRS
- October 20 Booster Day MTRS
- October 21 Greg Brown Concert 7:30 PM  
Community Hall
- October 24 MTR High School Open House  
7-9 PM
- October 25 Park Commission meeting 7:30 PM  
for ski race input.
- October 28 Halloween Party 3-4 PM Community  
Hall preschool to grade 6.
- November 3 Ladies Aid Christmas Sale and  
Luncheon 11 AM - 3 PM Community Hall  
Last day Metals Container available  
at Transfer Station.
- November 5 Mohawk Athletic Assoc. meeting  
7 PM MTRS
- November 7 Early release Rowe School  
Middle School Parent meeting 7:30  
PM MTRS
- November 7-9 Deb Friedlander music workshop  
at Rowe School
- November 20 Deadline for all Heath Herald  
articles and crossword puzzle entries.

## RALPH DICKINSON

by Todd Sumner

Just east of the Dickinsons' vegetable garden stands a metal cylinder, its top perfectly level, its base anchored in concrete. It looks slightly out of place amid the clover, but it is one of thousands scattered across the country. At first glance the cylinder looks something like a giant Japanese beetle trap. While it is a collecting vessel, its prey is nothing more than precipitation.

Ralph Dickinson has been an official observer for the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission since 1969. In addition, he began reporting to the National Weather Service on July first. He is charged with measuring collected precipitation each morning at eight sharp. "It used to be six o'clock, but I guess everybody isn't up by six any more," Mr. Dickinson mused. His monthly report is used by hydro-electric generating companies, the construction industry, and managers of public water supplies. It might be very useful, for example, if the Metropolitan District Commission could estimate how much run-off to expect each spring. Observers like Mr. Dickinson gather such information day by day, measuring snow as it lies on the ground, melting it to determine its water content, and fastidiously recording the findings.

The Dickinsons are not the first observers stationed in Heath. Clyde Varney did the job for over fifty years, beginning his tenure in 1927 and retiring only when Mr. Dickinson agreed to take his place. I suppose the job pales in comparison to the flashy, high-tech weather forecasting machines one can see on the evening news, but at least one can count on Heath's only weather observer to be accurate to the hundredth of an inch.



## HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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**RALPH DICKINSON HAS MEASURED  
HEATH PRECIPITATION FOR 21 YEARS**  
(Photo by Mike Peters)

### Editor's note:

We are greatly indebted to Ralph Dickinson's prompt and careful attention to the details of measuring Heath's precipitation on a daily basis. In lieu of this issue's report we are featuring an article about Ralph; the December issue will contain a complete precipitation update.

School Committee-cont'd from page 1

At this time various lawyers are reviewing the agreement and we have gotten some preliminary ok's.

#### Question 3:

At it's October 2 meeting the Heath School Committee decided to urge voters to vote NO on Question 3. We are all of the opinion that the results of that proposal would be devastating to public education. Our state is doing a lousy job in regard to support for public education, but, we feel that a much more intelligent solution than the "meat ax" approach of Question 3 is needed and possible. Please vote NO on Question 3.

## HALLOWEEN PARTY

by Val Belval

Whooo! Whooo!

Who's who??

Dolly Churchill, Sue Croteau, Debbie Crowning-shield, Donna Hyytinen, and Donna Tanner are in the process of putting on a one hour Halloween Party at the Heath Community Hall.

It will be held Sunday, October 28 from 3 PM to 4 PM. for preschool through grade six children only. (No High School kids except workers are invited).

I have only recruited approximately four high school students to help so if there are anymore interested, I would appreciate a call at 337-4012.

Parents are required to accompany their children to the party.

If anyone would like to donate cookies or cupcakes, we would greatly appreciate it. To make donations, please call: Dolly Churchill, 337-6680, Sue Croteau, 337-5371 or Donna Tanner, 337-4236.

There will be food, fun and games. Hope to see you there!!

## LADIES AID

by Edith Royer

The Ladies Aid will be having a Christmas Sale Saturday, November 3 at the Community Hall, from 11 AM to 3 PM. We will have toys, fancy articles, decorations and other things. Lunch will be on sale anytime. Come and look around and visit with friends!

*Transition*

*come change with us*  
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Wagon Train - cont'd from page 1

food and I will never cease to be amazed at the amount and variety. Always there's plenty! There are some mighty fine aromas that drift across the Fairgrounds at breakfast time. All one has to do is stand around with an empty plate and a hungry look and your plate will be filled and your tummy also.

To treat a first-timer to the vast view from the blueberry fields is worth all the preparations for the trip. It is hard to believe that this year's Wagon Train has encompassed 10 years, but tis true. We are most indebted to the Cables for their good hospitality and to the Paul Lively Family for allowing us to use their large field to break bread in on Sunday and also the Heightmanns for allowing us to go through their pasture.

A lot of work goes into this Wagon Train, and it is most satisfying to see it come together. It will get bigger, but it doesn't need to.

We had around a hundred animals this year and the Fairgrounds' barns were nearly full. To those who read this and need a thank-you, you got it. I do appreciate all that everyone did to make September 29 and 30 a heaping success.

## GREG BROWN

by David Gibbons

Folk singer Greg Brown will perform in Heath on October 21 at 7:30 PM in the Community Hall. Tickets are \$9 each but Heath residents who purchase their tickets in advance can get them for only \$7.50. Call 4077 evenings or weekends to order them.

Greg Brown is widely recognized as one of folk music's great singer-song writers. His songs, sung in an unmistakable deep, almost lazy voice range from romantic love songs through commentaries on modern life and ideals to the funny.

A regular on the old Prairie Home Companion Radio Show, Greg's music is surely familiar to those who listen to folk music on the local public radio stations. For those who don't know his music, the concert should make a great introduction.

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Tavern & Dinner Menu available in our Tavern, Deck, & Dining Room

TAVERN MENU

SAVORIES

FRIED CALAMARI...	served with our own pomodoro sauce	\$5.95
FRIED MOZZARELLA STICKS...	with your choice of orange marmalade laced with jalapino peppers or a red sauce	\$3.95
POTATO SKINS...	deep fried, topped with cheese, bacon and sour cream	\$2.95
CHICKEN FINGERS...	fried tidbits of chicken and a honey mustard dip	\$4.95
MUNCHIE PLATTER...	a sampling of our mozzarella sticks, chicken fingers, onion rings and potato wedges served with a ranch dip	\$5.95
CHILI...	cup	\$1.95
	bowl	\$2.95
DELUX BOWL OF CHILI...	our own chili topped with cheddar cheese and a side of nachos	\$3.95
BUFFALO WINGS...	you tell us how hot you like them, with blue cheese dip	\$4.95
NACHOS...		\$2.95
SOUTH OF THE BORDER...	nachos served with refried beans, cheese, tomato, olives, guacamole, sour cream and salsa	\$4.95
FRESH VEGGIE PLATTER...	mixed vegetables served raw or fried; choice of dressings	\$4.95
FRENCH FRIES...	\$1.95	
	COLE SLAW	\$1.50
ONION RINGS...		\$1.95

SOUP, SALAD & SKINS

FRENCH ONION SOUP...	topped with cheese and served with bread	\$2.95
CHICKEN SOUP...	with your choice of rice or noodles	\$1.95
MATZO BALL SOUP...		\$2.95
PASTA FAGIOLI...	a pasta and bean soup, peasant style; served with bread	\$1.95
SOUP and 1/2 of an EARL of SANDWICH...		\$3.50
SOUP and SALAD...		\$2.95
TUNA SALAD PLATE...		\$4.95
CHICKEN WALDORF SALAD...	chicken chunks with apples and walnuts	\$5.45
TOSSED SALAD...		\$1.95
CHEFS' SALAD...	slices of cheese, ham and turkey on a bed of tossed greens	\$5.95
	small chef	\$3.95
HOUSE SALAD...	crisp romaine lettuce, red bell pepper, black olives tossed with a tarragon and artichoke dressing; topped with fresh parmesan cheese	\$2.95
BAR-B-Q BEEF RIBS and SALAD...		\$4.95
FISH and CHIPS...		\$4.95
BROCCOLI & CHEESE in a BAKED POTATO...		\$2.95
CHILI & CHEESE POTATO...		\$2.95
SOUR CREAM, BACON & CHEESE POTATO...		\$2.95

BURGERS-BURGERS-BURGERS

	5oz	8oz
HAMBURGER...	\$3.25	\$4.25
CHEESEBURGER...	\$3.95	\$4.95
CHILI - CHEDDAR BURGER...	\$4.95	\$6.25
	of our own chili and cheddar cheese	
ITALIAN BURGER...	an added touch of red sauce and mozzarella cheese	\$4.95
TRAIL BURGER...	bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato, sauteed onion and mayonnaise	\$4.95

ALL OF OUR BURGERS ARE SERVED ON A HARD ROLL WITH LETTUCE, TOMATO, MAYONNAISE AND A CHOICE OF FRIES OR SLAW

TRAIL SANDWICHES

GRIZZLY...	deep fried chicken breast, swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise	\$5.95
COMPETITION...	roast beef, sauerkraut, russian dressing and swiss; served cold or grilled	\$4.95
EXHIBITION...	hot roast beef, mozzarella cheese served on a toasted garlic roll	\$4.95
BIG CHIEF...	pastami & corned beef combination with a spicy brown mustard	\$4.95
	on your choice of bread or roll	
MINNIE DOLE...	corned beef, sauerkraut, russian dressing and swiss; grilled	\$4.95
MOHAWK...	an open face tuna melt - tuna salad, american cheese and tomato slices; lightly broiled	\$3.95
WAR DANCE...	a toasted 3 decker, consisting of turkey, bacon, lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise	\$5.95
U - MASS...	roast beef on an Italian roll served with a cup of aujus	\$4.95
	dip till your hearts content	
TOP NOTCH...	grilled ham, bacon and swiss	\$4.95
FLYING CLOUD...	grilled tomatoes, mushrooms, cheese, sprouts and carrots - a veggie delight	\$3.95
THE JUG...	roast beef, cole slaw, russian dressing and swiss on a roll	\$4.95
DEER RUN...	ham, genoa salami, provolone, lettuce, tomato, onions, peppers and mayonnaise	\$4.95

ALL SANDWICHES SERVED WITH CHIPS UPON REQUEST - FRIES \$1.00 ADDITIONAL CHARGE

from the EARL of SANDWICH

BACON - LETTUCE & TOMATO...	\$3.50	TURKEY...	\$3.95
TUNA SALAD...	\$3.50	OVERSTUFFED...	\$4.50
CHICKEN WALDORF SALAD...	\$3.95	ROAST BEEF...	\$3.95
GRILLED CHEESE...	\$2.50	OVERSTUFFED...	\$4.50
with BACON...	\$3.50	CORNED BEEF...	\$3.95
HAM & CHEESE...	\$3.95	OVERSTUFFED...	\$4.50
GRILLED...	\$3.95	PASTRAMI...	\$3.95
		OVERSTUFFED...	\$4.50

DINNER MENU

APPETIZERS

GRILLED VEGETABLES & SPAGHETTI SQUASH...	\$1.95
	accompanied by fresh mozzarella, topped with a tomato vinaigrette
BAKED FONTINA...	\$5.95
	a mild cheese wrapped in a flakey pastry crust, baked to a golden brown and served with a pomodoro sauce
MUSSELS in MARINARA SAUCE...	\$4.95
STEAMED ARTICHOKE...	\$3.95
	served warm with butter and a basil mayonnaise
SHRIMP COCKTAIL...	\$4.95
	on a bed of lettuce with our own cocktail sauce
FRIED CALAMARI...	\$5.95
	a side of red sauce (as per your request - mild, medium or hot)
GARLIC BREAD...	\$1.95

SOUPS & SALADS

PASTA FAGIOLI...	\$1.95
	pasta and bean soup; peasant style
OUR OWN CHICKEN SOUP...	\$1.95
	a broth served with a choice of rice or noodles
MATZO BALL SOUP...	\$2.95
FRENCH ONION SOUP...	\$2.95

HOUSE SALAD...	\$2.95
	crisp romaine lettuce, red bell pepper, black olives, tossed with tarragon and artichoke dressing then topped with fresh parmesan cheese
CHEFS' DINNER SALAD...	\$5.95
	slices of cheese, ham, turkey, hard boiled egg on a bed of tossed greens and your choice of dressing

PASTA & SUCH

SPAGHETTI BOLOGNESE...	thin pasta with red Italian meat sauce	\$7.95
	with MEATBALLS	\$8.95
LINGUINI POMODORO...	linguini with a sauce of tomato, garlic and basil	\$6.95
PASTA PRIMAVERA...		\$8.95
	your choice of thin pasta or linguini served with a combination of seasonal vegetables	
EGGPLANT PARMIGIANA...	served with a side of pasta	\$7.95
	ALL PASTA COOKED AL DENTE	

STEAMED VEGETABLES...	\$7.95
	an array of assorted vegetables in a bamboo steamer served with our own dill dressing

FROM THE LAND

ROAST PRIME RIB OF BEEF au jus...	English cut	\$11.95
	Regular cut	\$14.95
	Extra Cut	\$19.95
CAJUN BLACKENED DELMONICO...	topped with tomato, onion and red sauce	\$13.95
NEW YORK CUT SIRLOIN...		\$16.95
STEAK KEBOB...		\$9.95
BARBQUEED BEEF RIBS...		\$7.95
CHICKEN PARMIGIANA...	served with a side of pasta	\$10.95
CHICKEN CACCIATORE...		\$10.95
SAVORY CHICKEN (cholesterol free)...		\$9.95
	one half chicken basted with a variety of herbs and broiled to perfection	
CHICKEN & PROSCIUTTO...		\$11.95
	rolled seasoned chicken breast, wrapped with prosciutto then baked	
BREAST OF CHICKEN FONTINA...		\$13.95
	sauteed breast of chicken glazed with fontina cheese, then topped with Italian sausage and mushrooms in a light sauce	
VEAL MARSALA...	veal scallops sauteed with a delicate wine sauce	\$13.95
VEAL PARMIGIANA...		\$14.95
	veal cutlet smothered in a red sauce then finished with imported cheese and served with linguini	

FROM THE SEA

POACHED SOLE and BROCCOLI...	\$10.95
FISHERMANS NET...	\$13.95
	assorted catch; a light topping of bread crumbs; then broiled
SHRIMP, SCALLOPS & LINGUINI...	\$15.95
	sauteed with garlic and finished in a sauce of wine, tomato and lemon
FISH and CHIPS...	\$7.95
CATCH of the DAY...	market price

## INFLUENZA (Grippe, Flu)

by Dianne Rode, Town Nurse

An acute viral infection of the respiratory tract, with symptoms present elsewhere in the body. Symptoms appear abruptly and include: fever (101 - 104 F), chills, dry cough, nasal stuffiness or running nose, aches and pains all over the body particularly in the back and limbs, sore throat, headache, loss of appetite, nausea and weakness.

Following an incubation period from 24 to 48 hours, flue symptoms begin to appear. A fever that lasts longer than 3-5 days signals the onset of complications. Pneumonia is the most common complication, other bacterial complications include sinusitis and Otitis media (middle ear infection). Occasionally the circulatory system is involved and the heart muscle (myocardium) or its outer covering (pericardium) may be inflamed producing myocarditis or pericarditis. If purulent (Pus-containing) sputum is brought up on coughing, it is advisable to see a doctor, as this may be a secondary infection requiring the treatment of an antibiotic.

Although influenza affects all age groups, it is most prevalent among school children (aged 6-14 years old) and people over age 40 years. It can be fatal, especially in the elderly and persons with chronic heart, lung, kidney or metabolic diseases.

One of the features of the influenza virus is its capacity for variation and minor changes that occur yearly or every few years.

Influenzas are classified into three groups:

**Type A** - The most lethal, strikes every 2 to 3 years, with a major new strain occurring every 10-15 years.

**Type B** - Strikes every 4 to 6 years causing an epidemic.

**Type C** - Causes only sporadic cases.

Influenza immunizations usually provide protection from 3 to 6 months. Some vaccines take about 2 weeks after the injection to become effective, thus immunization against influenza is usually given in the autumn to protect against attacks during the winter when influenza is most common.

The vaccine administered is based on the previous years virus and is usually about 75% effective. Since the vaccines are made from chicken embryos, those people that are hypersensitive to eggs, feathers or chickens could not receive the vaccine, but an alternate vaccine called Amantadine could be given for Type A influenza.

Treatment for uncomplicated influenza includes bedrest, adequate fluid intake, antipyretic for fever and non-narcotic analgesic for aches and pains. Gradual resumption of normal activity is best, after the acute phase.



## Green Thoughts

by

ELSA BAKALAR

I'm no record-keeper, but it seems to me frost on September 18 is not fair. Forecasters gave frequent warnings throughout the day, but it was still hard to believe. Driving around Heath early next morning made me wonder if there was anything left indoors. There were the standard buckets, peach baskets, and newspapers, of course, over tomatoes, peppers, and squashes, but, in addition, a number of mysterious mounds under tarpaulins, blankets, old raincoats, and less immediately recognizable articles of clothing. One hoped everything survived and made it all worthwhile.

An early frost accelerates thinking about Spring, or so I find. Bulbs are in the stores now, and it's a good idea to get some while the choice is good. Daffodils, tulips, crocuses, and hyacinths are the Big Four, but the variety is far greater than that. Usually there's a color picture over the bin in the store, and the best thing about bulbs is WYSIWYG - "What You See is What You Get" - not always the case with other purchases. Bulbs have everything they need for that first year, and they won't fail you. Just three in a small corner of the garden will work spring magic. No garden? Have them indoors. The Heath Library has books that will tell you how to do it.

Heath Fair has come and gone and there will be plenty about it on other pages, but I'd like to go on record here in praise of the flower exhibitors - valiant souls all. In a particularly difficult season in which nothing seemed to go right (alternate drought and deluge, deer, woodchucks, Japanese beetles, mildew, rust - you name it, we had it) they came through with some excellent flowers and arrangements. The good old reliables - petunias, marigolds, zinnias, gladioli - were there in force, but what was most encouraging was the appearance of several lovely and unusual flowers I hadn't seen at the Fair before.

It's none too soon to think about next year. Did you find yourself looking at an exhibit and saying, "Mine look better than that, why didn't I enter them?" So - make a note to grow some next year. One blue ribbon, and you could be hooked.

One of the nicest things about working in the hall on Friday evening is to see the children coming in with their entries. We adults fuss, rearrange, take flowers out or poke in a few more. But children confidently plunk their flowers down on the table and go off to wait for the blue ribbon they know will be theirs. They're right to be proud, of course. One very young artist had been so pleased with his drawing, that he worried all night before the Fair, lest thieves come to steal it!

Could we, I wonder, bring in more youngsters each year? Once started (and five is not too young) they would probably want to enter something in the fair every year. Admittedly, this is going to be something of a strain on the parents, at a time when everything needs to be done at once, but it would be very worthwhile and of great significance to the child. Let's make an effort, at seed-ordering time, to buy a few packs that the children can sow and grow in time for August 1991.

Gordon E. Taylor d/b/a



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## HEATH FAIR NEWS

by Mike Peters, President

With the fair behind us and the leaves turning, the committee members can enjoy a short vacation before Heath Fair 1991 begins its planning stages in November. Many things have changed and improved at the fairgrounds, so it looks like a very busy year ahead.

This year's fair was a success financially and proved to be very educational because of the rainy Sunday that we experienced. Although this year was not as profitable as last, we did manage to make a small profit. It's nice to know that we can have rain on our best fair day and still be able to survive financially.

One week before this article was written, the state informed us that they have cut all funding of Agricultural Fairs. This means that none of the premium money paid out to exhibitors will be reimbursed by the state, so we have to absorb the entire \$6,500 ourselves. Normally the state sends us \$4,000 towards this amount, but not anymore. Thanks, Dukakis old buddy !!! Fortunately we prepared for this in the spring of this year by raising admissions at the main gate by one dollar, and have the funds to cover this. There's one thing that we must remember that almost out-weighs having lost the state funding, and that is that we no longer have to run ourselves under their "rules and regulations". We no longer have to listen to the state's inspectors complain about how poorly the fair is being managed. Now we have to make it on our own with nobody to help us but ourselves. This could be very beneficial to us. This new change appears to be very long term, and has very little chance of changing in the next few years.

The work that is now being completed at the fairgrounds has been a long, hard earned goal for the fair executives and members. Although a large part of the work was done underground where you can't see it, the above ground work still catches one's eye. The original landscaping project that was started the day after this year's fair was greatly modified because of a state grant we received, before the state cut all funding, and certain "unexpected conditions" at the grounds. George Morse from Colrain has been a major financial contributor and we want to thank him for that and his unending devotion to the fair. To the original estimate we have added over \$10,000 worth of mostly grant work. To the original plans we have added some more electrical work, drainage work, water supply, landscaping, smoothing up the midway, and other small jobs. If we had to pay full price for the work that was done, it would have cost us around \$15,000.00. When the work is done and the grass is in full again, everyone that attends the fair should enjoy themselves more than ever. To see that everyone enjoys themselves at the fair is the ultimate goal of the committee members, and that all profits are reinvested in the fairgrounds so everyone can have an even better time as years go on.

This work, combined with recent years growth, pretty much prepares the fairgrounds for the long range future in electrical, plumbing, general landscaping and building needs. One thing we're still working on is long range parking solutions. This year's trial run with no parking allowed on the road was a success and will hopefully be the same next year. Another non-ending job is going to have to be

building maintenance, with 11 buildings on the grounds this will be a very important issue. With all of this in mind, and a great history behind us, it looks as though the Heath Fairgrounds is prepared for the great expansion of the 1990's.

In November the annual elections will take place as usual, with Todd Sumner running for Treasurer to replace Nancy Briggs who is stepping down. We want to thank Nancy for her devotion to straightening out all our financial papers, and always being there when we needed her. Other than Todd, there are no new officers running, so anyone interested in becoming a fair executive should contact any member for information before the November elections. If no other interested people come forward, the present board members have all agreed to run for another year. We feel we work well together and all seem to have the same ideas on how the fair needs to be rebuilt and slightly changed for the future, without losing any of it's country charm.

The committee recently voted to change the "senior citizen" age at the ticket booth to 65, and also to have all exhibits that are entered on the grounds by 8:00 PM Thursday night. This will allow us to have them judged Friday morning so Friday evening people will be able to view all of the exhibits already judged.

We have asked in the last few articles on the fair that anyone with any comments about the fair's overall performance as seen by the public, write us and give us an idea if we are heading in the right direction with our running of the fair. Well, we have received absolutely no responses to this question, and want to put out a plea for some community input on this matter right away. We need some support, so please let us know now. The address is "Heath Fair" P.O. Box 10, Heath MA, 01346. Thank you.

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## OLD MORTALITY

by Dr. Michael D. Coe

On November 6, 1901, the New England Historic Genealogical Society voted to set aside a request of \$20,000 for the sole purpose of publishing the Vital Records of the towns of Massachusetts through the year 1850. Taken from church records, gravestones, family bibles, and other sources, the Vital Records published thus far are an amazingly rich treasure house of early New England social life and history, for here are the births, marriages, and deaths of all the people who dwelt in these parts.

**"The Heath Vital Records, then, are a window onto a past that seems almost incomprehensible to us in the last years of the 20th century."**

The Vital Records of Heath appeared in 1915, and this book is on file in our town Library. Why it wasn't suppressed long ago I don't know, for in it you can prove by looking at the relevant dates that more than one Heathen girl went to the altar when she was already "in a family way"! Page 3 of our Vital Records gives the census figures for Heath through 1910, and one can see that the population climbed steadily from 1790 until 1830, when it reached an astonishing total of 1,199 souls, by which time almost all of the land was cleared and under cultivation or in pasture: 160 years ago, the Heath landscape must have borne little resemblance to the wooded hills of today. But the Erie Canal opened in 1825, and by the decade of the 1830's the population began plummeting as individuals and whole families moved west to New York State and the more easily worked lands of the Middle West.

The death records, given family by family, have a grim fascination for the historian, since in about half of them the cause of death is given. Through much of the period in question, Heath was blessed by the presence of a good physician, Dr. Joseph Emerson - the pater familia of the wonderfully naive portrait owned by the Historical Society - who arrived here in 1806 and practiced until his death in 1842. Skillful he may have been, as those who knew him have testified, but the state of American medicine during his residence made it unlikely that he could cope with disease in any positive way. General anesthesia was not introduced until 1846, by Morton in Massachusetts General Hospital; if you have ever read an account of an operation prior to its invention, you will see that country doctors like Emerson would have avoided surgery as much as possible. The germ theory of infectious diseases only took root in the latter part of the century with Pasteur's discoveries; and the practice of antisepsis was first applied by Lister in 1865. With the exception of opium and alcohol, most of the medicines dispensed by our good doctor would have been useless at best.

On looking though the Heath data, dysentery is by far the usual cause of death, affecting largely infants and children. This is the result of fecal contamination; like many inhabitants of the Third World today, there must have been a laxity about person cleanliness, and little awareness that placing privies near wells was not a good idea.

Next in frequency comes "consumption" - tuberculosis - which actually was the leading cause of death in this country until 1909. The culprit here is the tubercle bacillus, spread by coughing or sneezing, or by contaminated milk. Traditionally this was a disease of young adults, especially women, and this was also the case in pre-1850 Heath. I would guess that there was little that Dr. Emerson could do once a patient began coughing up blood, except to hope that the disease would run its course, and spare its victim.

Epidemic disease reared its head several times in early Heath, but luckily never made any great inroads. Death from typhus, a louse or tick-borne disease, was reported in 1813, 1845, and 1848; there were typhoid deaths in 1846 and 1848, and one case of cholera in 1844. Children often succumbed to whooping cough, and less commonly to scarlet fever, both much-dreaded childhood ailments.

While cancer occasionally appears in the records, heart and circulatory ailments are seldom mentioned, probably because they were taken for granted. "Dropsy", i.e. edemas of various kinds, are often blamed for deaths, but this may be cancer-related. There are some mystery diseases, too. What, for instance, was "putrid fever" (which claimed many victims of all ages)? What were "rattles" (one case, 4-year old Diana Williams in 1816)? And how could one die of "worms"?

As might be expected in a rural community, there were accidental deaths, such as David Baldwin, Jr., who was killed in 1813 at age 28 "by a fall of frame instantly", or little George Cotton, killed at age 5 in 1827 "by the rolling of a log from a wood pile". But violent deaths by other means were almost nonexistent: there were no reported murders, and only one suicide.

Some families were more heavily hit by tragedy than others: in 1805 the Colmans lost five members, with the parents succumbing to "quick consumption" and three of their grown children to "putrid fever". The Emersons, by contrast, went unscathed, until the doctor passed away at age 60.

The Heath Vital Records, then, are a window onto a past that seems almost incomprehensible to us in the last years of the 20th century. One has to conceive of a fairly crowded land almost bare of trees, with bad sanitation and a great deal of disease, a land in which pain and suffering were rife, with very little hope of relief from the medical profession of those times. In fact, one would have to go to the poorer, overcrowded, and most backward parts of Africa, Asia, or Latin America to find anything comparable. In short, anyone contemplating a return to the "good old days" should think about what life -- and death -- were like before the advent of modern medicine.

Editor's note: Dr. Michael Coe, noted anthropologist at Yale and Past President of the Heath Historical Society, has agreed to provide the *Heath Herald* with a bi-monthly feature column addressing a particular aspect of Heath's history. We are delighted to have Dr. Coe join the staff as a regular contributor.

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## ANOTHER TRIP TO LENINGRAD

by Sophie Coe

The last time, when both of us went to Leningrad, it was springtime. This time I was alone, because Mike had to teach, and it was fall. Last time the theme was current research, this time it was a commemoration of the past. Last time there were no formal meetings, this time there were to be three days of lectures, including one by me. The subject was to be my father, who had left Leningrad in 1927, and had never again been allowed to set foot in his homeland.

**"The ruble doesn't get you much, although hard currency shops and restaurants are springing up all over the place."**

There were several reasons for this. In the first place, anyone who left the USSR for good was considered a "non-returner", and that was the same thing as a traitor. In the second place my father was a scientist, a geneticist, a student of evolution, a field which was particularly obnoxious to the Communist rulers of the USSR. The thought that there were some natural mechanisms governing heredity which the party could not change was not acceptable, and many of the contemporaries and colleagues that my father left in the USSR paid for their studies with their lives. In 1951 my father was attacked in *Pravda* as a "mrakobes", a demon of darkness. We knew about it at the time, but we did not know that my uncle, my mother's brother, had been fired from his job because of it, even though his job had nothing to do with genetics, and for the sake of safety he had not corresponded with my parents since 1938. My uncle's boss just could not risk employing a man connected, however distantly, with this enemy of the Soviet state. Even in 1985, ten years after my father's death, the journal *Priroda* turned down an article about him, since it was still too risky to mention the name. All of which makes my astonishment understandable, when I received an invitation to a conference in Leningrad, about that same demon of darkness, Th. Dobzhansky, my father.



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Before the conference I had three days to get some sleep, see my cousin and her family, and catch up with friends from our previous visit. It wasn't only on the calendar that it was autumn. If we had found their life hard on our previous visit, it was now much harder. I heard many outbursts of public political comment. At one point my cousin, her husband, and I were standing at a bus stop, coming back from their country plot, when we were accosted by a tall gent who said he was from Chelyabinsk, an industrial city in the Urals. He held out a box of matches on his hand, and asked if we knew what they were. They were rationed in Chelyabinsk, he said, and so were cigarettes, and cooking oil, and butter, and sugar. He got quite excited, seizing my cousin's husband by the collar, and addressing him as "otetz", or father, as he continued his harangue. When was Tolik, a nickname for the mayor of Leningrad, which would like to go back to being Petrograd, but can't afford to do so, when would he take over and set things right? The bus came, and our friend calmed down and got on with his less vocal companions, but not before inviting us all to Chelyabinsk, to see for ourselves.

The day I arrived and settled into my hotel room (in the Russian, not the tourist, section of the hotel, and distinctly not big enough to swing a cat in), my hosts gave me 175 rubles, their way of paying all my expenses. It was more than my cousin could earn in a month, and there was nothing to spend it on, so I ended up giving 25 rubles to a fund to erect a

**"What would my father have thought, could he have seen the notice of the conference in his honor, on the door of the Academy of Sciences building?"**

statue of a murdered colleague of my father's in the northern town where he had been born, and turned the rest back to the organizing committee, so that they could continue their work. The ruble doesn't get you much, although hard currency shops and restaurants are springing up all over the place. The feelings of the Russians who have no way of getting hard currency may be imagined if we picture how we would feel if the one place there was anything to buy was a store that only took Japanese yen and there was no legal way to change our dollars into yen.

This pursuit of hard currency at all costs goes back to the twenties and thirties, when the authorities sold off pictures from the Hermitage for this purpose. They are still getting hard currency by

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trampling on their citizens. Our friends Elena and Alexei, living in their single cluttered room, and sharing kitchen and bathroom facilities with the other dwellers in their communal apartment, had their young son with them this time. I was told by someone who had visited them last year that the kid was a perfect monster. I don't think he is; I think that the family just needs more space and more privacy, so that they will not be so edgy and irritable. There isn't even a kindergarten for the little one. There used to be, but the Swedes took over the building for some hard currency enterprise, and neglected to relocate the kindergarten, which they had promised to do.

The participants in the conference were a curious mixture. There were the Russians - very open, young, and enthusiastic. I gathered that many of them were active in city politics, and the newly formed historical preservation movement. There were some senior scholars, who had lived all their lives under the old regime, and weren't quite sure how things were turning out. The foreigners were mostly Americans. Some of the Russians and foreigners were geneticists and talked science, and the rest were historians, sociologists, and archivists, each speaking their own professional tongue.

My talk came at the end. I was supposed to break all the rules that had been laid down, starting with the one that made English the official language, which was rough on some of the Russian participants, and those of us who had to listen to their struggles. I gave a pictorial biography of my father, describing each slide in Russian and English, and I was allowed to run over the twenty minute limit set for the other speakers. I used the Carousel projector we had given to the Institute of Ethnography on our last visit, and which had been lugged up from Moscow, along with the incredibly heavy transformer for the occasion. It was a whole lot better than the projection equipment possessed by the Academy of Sciences, Leningrad branch, where the whole business took place.

What would my father have thought, could he have seen the notice of the conference in his honor, on the door of the Academy of Sciences building? It was facing the sparkling Neva river, the Hermitage, the Admiralty with its tall golden needle-like spire, and St. Isaac's Cathedral. Looking at it I remembered his tales of the last great Neva flood, which took place in 1924, when he was a young scientist newly arrived from Kiev, and working in a basement laboratory, somewhere along the same embankment.

After the conference the rest of the guests had two days of sightseeing and laboratory visiting, but I left to go on to the Oxford Food Conference, which was the following weekend. My route took me first

to Warsaw, on a plane loaded with color televisions, tricycles, and vacuum cleaners, which were presumably bought for hard currency in Leningrad, and were going to be sold in Poland for a profit. The ruble-holding inhabitants of Leningrad can't dream of finding such things to buy. Before departure our plane was watched, as I think all international flights are, by four guards wearing the green flashes of the KGB border patrol.

Once in Warsaw the departure lounge for the flight to London was a revelation. All those big, sleek, well-fed, well-dressed, confident looking people! The person sitting next to me on the flight, the British equivalent of a US park ranger, brought me back to sordidness. He had decided to spend his vacation seeing for himself the changes in Eastern Europe, and on his first night in a Polish train had had all his possessions and his passport stolen. An unpleasant encounter with the Polish police followed, and he was returning to Manchester with no fond feelings. Indeed, the foreigners in Leningrad had been told never to take a taxi, lest they be driven to some dark alley, beaten, and robbed of everything including their shoes. Everybody is out for themselves, nobody knows what the future will bring, and the forces of the law are in total disarray.

It was dark by the time I got in to central London, and without giving it a thought, got a taxi to take me and my immensely heavy suitcase to my hotel. I had gone taking clothes for my cousin, thinking to return with empty baggage, but despite their poverty the Russians had been so generous with books and mementoes, that my load was heavier than ever. But all those lights! And all those cars! And all those people, not trudging with empty shopping bags, but looking as if they were having a good time, or on their way to having one.

The next morning it was no longer the minimal breakfast of the Sovietskaya Hotel, where you were offered nothing but black coffee, black bread, white bread, butter, and hard-boiled eggs. Here there was a white tablecloth, six different newspapers, three kinds of juice, tea, chocolate, or coffee which I could have with hot milk if I wanted it that way. There were four kinds of rolls! Two kinds of toast!! And six kinds of jam!!! I was in the West again, in the culture of abundance, and for a moment, before habit took over, I realized how amazing it was.

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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Todd Sumner, Secretary

The annual fall hike, undertaken in concert with the Rowe Historical Society, will take place on Saturday, October 13. This year's hike will wind along the western rim of the Pioneer Valley ending at Spruce Mountain. The terrain is not especially arduous. We will take a lunch break, so bring a bag lunch. If you would like to join this spirited bunch of hikers, we will assemble at 10 AM on the 13th. The meeting place is a turnout on Route 2 near the entrance to the state park; it is approximately three miles west of Charlemont center. You may call me at 337-4302 if you have any questions. Hope to see you there.

The annual meeting of the Heath Historical Society was held on Saturday, August 11 at the Community Hall. The Townhouse was open in the late afternoon; some members and friends availed themselves of this opportunity to view some of the Society's collection. A potluck supper was shared by the assembled company.

After dinner, president Pegge Howland convened the business meeting. Pegge Howland was elected to another term as president; Dominic Musacchio will continue to serve as vice president; David Howland and Mike Bakalar were elected to the Board of Directors. The business meeting was followed by an illustrated program on the geological evolution of the Pioneer Valley, presented by GCC professor Richard Little.

## LIBRARY LINES

by Alli Thane

Our "Make Tracks to the Library" summer reading program is over and the winners are: In the Read Alone group, Bree Richter, 79 books, Nicole Rainville, 74 books, Jonathan Gibbons, 51 books, Lara Thane, 36 books, Libby Look, 30 books, Seth Brower, 19 books, Megan MacDougall, 16 books and Rachel Brower, 10 books. In the Read to Me group: Madeleine Gibbons, 36 books, John MacDougall, 19 books, Ross Thane, 17 books, Kayla Look, 11 books.

The first 3 winners of each group won gift certificates to the Bridge of Flowers Bookstore and the others won a money prize. Congratulations to all!

New books received at the Library include:

Black Trillium, Marian Zimmer Bradley

Coyote Waits, Tony Hillerman

Four Past Midnight, Stephen King

Origami & Paper Craft, Paul Jackson

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## EMERSON FAMILY PORTRAIT APPEARS IN "ANTIQUES"

by Pegge Howland

The October issue of *The Magazine Antiques*, just released, has for its theme "Folk Art". Its pages are filled with articles, advertisements and photographs devoted to American folk culture and its art forms. Among these is a fine article by Colleen Cowles Heslip entitled "The Artisan Painter between the Hudson and Connecticut Rivers". In keeping with the magazine's high publishing standards, the article is illustrated with fifteen full-color photographs of folk art by artisan painters. One of these beautiful photographs is of the Emerson Family Portrait which is owned by the Heath Historical Society. The portrait, painted in Heath c.1837 by an unknown artist, depicts Dr. Joseph Emerson with his wife Sarah and their five children. The painting has been on loan to the exhibition "Between the Rivers: Itinerant Painters from the Connecticut to the Hudson" and is on view at the Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield, MA. until November 4. It is quite a coup for little old Heath to even be mentioned in such a prestigious magazine as *Antiques*, much less have a color photograph displayed. I have placed a copy of the October issue on reserve in the Heath Library if anyone is interested in reading the article or seeing the photo. It's well worth your while!

## CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Roger Peace

What a joy to be in Heath at this most "colorful" time of the year. God has given us such a beautiful land to behold.

We want to thank those who participated in the work day this past weekend. Over half the siding was put on the garage and the three new Sunday School rooms were studded in at the church. We are in hopes of beginning our Sunday School program soon.

A Bible study is being planned for the first and third Wednesday of each month. Watch for more information about this. If you are interested, please contact Rhodessa or Pastor Roger soon. Don't forget about our annual Thanksgiving eve service, we all have so much to be thankful for - God is so good.

Let us all worship together this Sunday. See you at the church.



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## NEWS FROM THE ACADEMY

by David Gibbons

A new year is underway at the Academy, and, despite the ubiquitous budget problems, the mood is eager.

The grass is finally growing well and, coupled with a new exterior paint job, is making the campus feel more complete.

Friday, September 28 was our annual Mountain Day and we all piled into our vans and a school bus and headed to Mount Greylock. Those of us on the bus ended up at the wrong parking lot and climbed an extra couple of miles, but the weather was perfect and most of us enjoyed the extra time in the woods.

Preparations are now well underway for our annual sponsored car wash to benefit the Black South African Scholarship fund. This year there will also be a craft show and sale the same weekend. Come down and join us on October 13 and 14.

## BOOSTER DAY IS OCTOBER 20

by Val Belval

Once again we are off to another non-stop busy year at Mohawk Trail Regional School.

Already Booster Day is creeping up on us. Floats are being made and the dance committee is in full swing, preparing the most unforgettable dance of the year.

Booster Day will be held Saturday, October 20 with Mohawk playing Turners Falls High School's blue and white Indians.

The time of the parade has not yet been determined but the football game will immediately follow the parade.

Please come and show your support.

## MOHAWK SPORTS ROSTER

J. V. Football, Ben Steinbock; Varsity Girls Soccer, Heather Gruen; Varsity Field Hockey, Jen Gilbert; J. V. Field Hockey, Cathy Toupence; J. V. Soccer, Jeremiah Venneri; Middle School Soccer, Andy Shattuck, Adam Aleimda, Jim Cerone, Jeremiah Venneri; Middle School Field Hockey, Mary Tutrice, Angie Almeida, Ann Shattuck, Diane Rode; Middle School Football, Rocco Venneri.

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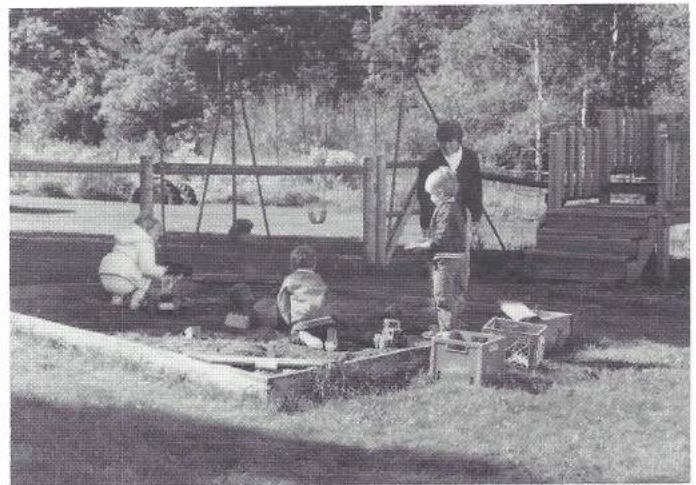
## HEATH PUBLIC PRESCHOOL NEWS

by David Gibbons

Pam Porter reports that the new year is off to a good start with 23 children attending, including a couple of special needs children.

The summer fundraising went well although a \$3,000 cut in the state grant has left \$2,600 to be made up in tuition and fees.

The Heath Fair effort raised \$700, mostly between the raffles and the birdhouses. Speaking of which, there are still bluebird houses available at \$10 each; call Pam if you are interested. The Preschool thanks Mike Peters and Jay Healy for donations of lumber, Alan Nichols for planning, Brian DeVriese for cutting and the dads and other preschool friends who did the assembly of the birdhouses.



HEATH PRESCHOOLERS ENJOY RECESS  
(Photo by Mike Peters)

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## SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Art Schwenger

The Selectmen have clarified the wording on several town personnel policies including vacation, health and life insurance coverage, sick leave and personal time. These policies are being compiled into a manual which includes definitions and administrative roles in the conduct of the policies. Thanks to the chairman's expertise and persistence, we now have a document that can be easily referred to when explaining, interpreting or changing our policies for town employees.

The three box culverts on Colrain Stage Road are now mostly installed. Although the reimbursement is not in hand, these culverts were to be paid for by the Small Town Bridges grant that we were awarded three years ago. In the meantime, the town is borrowing the money.

Oil and stone have been applied to Number Nine Road from 8A to Cyrus Stage Road and Colrain Stage Road. This effort is intended to extend the life of the pavement.

The Harris Mountain section of South Road has been made more passable again. Most difficult to maintain without a major rebuilding, this road has been considerably eroded over the years.

As promised at the last town meeting, the Selectmen held bidding for a new truck to replace one of the old ones. The bid was awarded to Deleurey Sales from North Hoosick, NY, for about \$42,000. Delivery is expected in November in time for this year's snow removal. The truck will be paid for over the next five years.

The formal list of appointments to town offices has been accepted and is being kept by the town clerk. As usual, the Selectmen are very interested to hear from anyone who would like to become involved in helping to make Heath's government work. Please note that there are 38 elected and some 75 appointed positions. As you can see, your help is needed.



NEW BOX CULVERTS IN PLACE ON COLRAIN STAGE ROAD  
(Photo by Mike Peters)

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## HEATH PARK COMMITTEE NEWS

by David Gibbons

The new officers of the Heath Park Committee are: Judy Thrasher, chairperson; Anne Rocchi, secretary and Carole Sartz, treasurer. Park Committee meetings will be the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall and are open to all interested.

The Committee is seeking input in two particular areas:

1. The Ski Race. There will be a meeting on October 25 at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall. Everyone who is interested in seeing the ski race continue is urged to be there. Those for whom the night is not possible should call Judy at 337-5327.

2. The October 18 meeting will be primarily to talk about ideas for a spring dedication/memorial to recognize park donations given in memoria. Ideas are welcome.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE CONTEST

The staff of the *Heath Herald* is sponsoring a crossword puzzle contest. Applicants should note the following rules:

1. All entries should be printed neatly and submitted to the *Heath Herald*, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA, 01346 by November 20, 1990.

2. The overall theme of the crossword puzzle should be Heath.

3. The winner will be selected by the staff of the *Heath Herald* and the winning entry will be printed in the December issue. The winner will receive two free movie passes.

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Earl Gleason, Chief

August and September have been very busy months for the Fire Department. Of the 51 days covered by this report (reported through September 20) the Department had one or more activities on 35 of those days.

Ten emergency calls were responded to, beginning with 2 EMTs and 2 firefighters responding to a two car accident on Colrain Brook Road. Two people were transported to the hospital in the Charlemont Ambulance. The next day, August 4, 17 firefighters spent 4 hours fighting a forest fire in Rowe. The next day during a 12 hour period 12 firefighters spent periods of time at the Rowe fire. Upon returning from Rowe, we were called to Hosmer Road to assist Charlemont Ambulance with a lady with an injured leg. 2 EMTs and 5 firefighters responded to this incident. The next afternoon 3 EMTs, 7 firefighters and 1 engine responded to an automobile accident on Burrington Road. A lady was transported in Charlemont Ambulance. Charlemont responded to this incident with an engine and their rescue truck. On August 12, 2 EMTs and 3 firefighters responded to Moduc Drive to aid Charlemont Ambulance with a lady having chest pains. Engine 1 covered the Jacksonville Fire Station on August 23 for about 5 1/2 hours while Whittingham was fighting a structure fire. 8 firefighters responded with seven going to Jacksonville.

On the evening of August 25, heavy black smoke was reported off Flagg Hill Road. 5 firefighters and engine 1 responded to find an illegal burn. A warning was issued. On August 28, a call was received for a tree burning after it had fallen and was lying across the wires on South Road. Engine 1 responded but was returned to the station when it was found that no fire existed. Several fire personnel were assigned to each side of the incident to stop traffic. Upon returning to the station firefighters responding reported trees also down on Sumner Stetson Road and Burnelle Road. Men were assigned to these roads for traffic control. Barricades were later set up on each of these roads and 16 firefighters were released after spending 3 1/2 hours. September has been fairly quiet with the only run to Moduc Drive for a woman experiencing chest pains on September 8. 2 EMTs, 3 firefighters and a Nurse/Practitioner assisted Charlemont Ambulance on this incident.

In addition, the Fire Chief/Civil Defense Director met 5 different mornings with representatives of Yankee Atomic or the State Civil Defense Agency in preparation for the Nuclear Emergency Response drill which was held on Sept. 25. In addition 2 drills were conducted with an Instructor from Mass. Civil Defense on radiation detection and decontamination. 15 attended the first session and 10 attended the second. The conclusion of the training was a 6 hour drill exercise on Sept. 11 in which 4 personnel participated.

Yes, we did have time for other training. In addition to the 3 drills mentioned above, a driver training and tanker shuttle drill were held. Also 3 junior firefighter sessions were held and 2 Fire Association meetings as well.

We wish to thank everyone who helped in any way at Heath Fair. Our profits were down a bit this year because of the rain on Sunday. The excess Chicken and other food was donated to the Survival Center in Greenfield.

Fire Prevention Week was October 7 - 13; brochures were available from the Chief or the Library. Also, the Library has a popular children's video that was donated to us last year. Please avail yourselves of this material.

Speaking of Fire Prevention, the Department will again be cleaning chimneys this fall. If you wish your chimney cleaned call Earl Gleason at 337-4948 before October 15. No requests will be accepted after October 15 as we do not enjoy sending volunteers onto frost or ice covered roofs except in emergency situations.

One oil burner installation permit was granted and two plans were reviewed for smoke detector installation.

LET'S HAVE FIRE PREVENTION WEEK LAST ALL YEAR LONG!!

## ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Don Dekker

It is a relief to be simply preparing the town records for the new tax bills instead of preparing for a revaluation. We are aiming at having everything up-to-date to send the tax bills out on schedule. All we need is some cooperation from the State, and as is often the case lately, that may not occur on time. We will try to send out the tax bills due in the fall and following spring. If necessary we will wait on the State for town funding as late as December, before sending estimated bills. Estimated bills are confusing to town residents and added work for the Collector, and we will do our best to avoid them. If the State comes through, you should get your bill in late October.

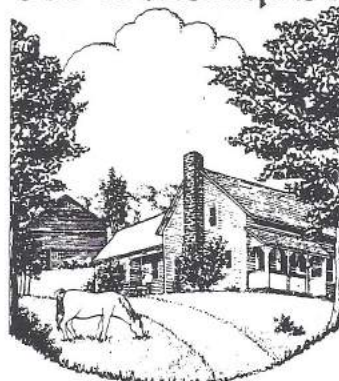
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## POLICE REPORT

by Guy Silvester, Chief

August saw the annual Heath Fair come and go. Once again the Fair was well run and efficiently organized. And from our standpoint it was quiet. In the three days of crowds and excitement only two people were summoned to court.

August also found the police department running quite a bit of radar. This activity is never popular, but based upon the speeds recorded and number of citations awarded, it is certainly needed. Our radar unit just completed its annual maintenance check and certification. We will once again be running radar in town, so please try to slow down and heed the signs.

During the last four months several investigations have been underway. The District Attorney's office has done a very professional job. To those of you who have been so helpful and honest, the Town of Heath owes you a debt of gratitude.

The Heath Police Department has also dealt with domestic problems, firearms permits, accidents and larcenies. Several summonses have been issued, also. Remember, for police assistance please call 1-772-2133. It is not possible to reach the police officers at their home telephone numbers.

## HEATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

by Bill Latrell

During August and September the Heath Conservation Commission reviewed two Requests for Determination. The first was filed by the Town of Heath Highway Department for the placement of three box culverts on Colrain Stage Road. After much investigation it was determined that this project was exempt from Chapter 131, Section 40. However, the Heath Highway Department did voluntarily agree to perform the proposed work in environmentally sound ways by pumping the Kinsman Brook water around the area of construction, and performing the work during the low-flow period. The second Request for Determination was filed by Kendall Litchfield of Route 8A in Heath. This 100 foot buffer zone project proposed to install a septage holding tank in the resource area 100 foot buffer zone. It was determined that this project would have no negative impact on the resource area with the installation of a silt fence between the area of work and the resource area. A negative determination was issued.

In other news the Heath Conservation Commission has been working closely with the Mohawk Estates Association on a dam repair and lake draw down project that will eventually require the filing of a Notice of Intent. We expect a filing on this project in the fall of this year.

Two (2) Notices of Intent have been filed by James Cerone on adjoined Number Nine Road properties. A public hearing was held September 8.



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## THE CHERRY SHEET CONUNDRUM

by D. F. Howland

Each year the towns and cities of Massachusetts receive statements from the Department of Revenue detailing local aid program appropriations. Because the statements are printed on pink paper they have acquired the name "cherry sheets" although some notion that communities were receiving the fruits of the Legislature's action might have contributed to the term. In any event the Selectmen of Heath were very surprised to see that \$40,642 in Highway Fund aid was not included for FY91. These monies have been a regular component of local aid for years and are generated by taxing gasoline and diesel fuels. It appears that in the process of passing tax legislation amid many conference committee meetings between the House and Senate last August that Highway Fund monies were left out, although I read in one newspaper that the Governor vetoed it. Not to worry. Upon checking with our local representatives, who were very concerned and upset by this turn of events, I learned that the Speaker of the House promised them that upon reconvening the Legislature after Labor Day the matter would be addressed. Well, here we are in October 1990 and the Speaker has not called the Great and General Court back into session, and the bill languishes in the Ways and Means Committee of the House. We, the Town of Heath, passed a budget for FY91 based on estimated aid level of 3% less than the reduced aid figure for last year and now it is some 48% less than expected or about \$42,500 rather than an estimated \$87,600. A further example of Cherry Sheet manipulations is that last year we were shorted about \$20,000, but after pleading poverty via a comprehensive report we won \$34,000 in emergency money. Then the Governor was taken to court about the shortfall and subsequently we received the \$20,000 this year, FY91. We think we are allowed to show this as income for FY90 so that when we do our balance sheet our Free Cash will reflect this money. Such monies can be appropriated this year. If all this sounds a bit confusing and mysterious, it is, and it is a tough job for Town Accountant June Day and Treasurer Linda Marcotte to keep track of these events. As to the Highway Funds, much pressure is being put on the Speaker to get moving, but in the meantime we do not have a balanced budget for FY91.

We also have a problem with EEO money that was promised to us for FY91. It is tied up in the bureaucracy of the Department of Education. David Newell, Business Manager at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School, is helping us resolve issues. Even though this money shows up on the Cherry Sheet we have to qualify for it! Thus, in a sense it is not real money and it just adds to the complex interpretations of local aid via the cherry Sheet.

Enough of this rather unpleasant news. Suffice it to say that the Town Officers and Committee people are on top of the problems and will continue working in the best interest of Heath.



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Signed,  
Jay Healy  
Charlemont



## PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

### Perc Tests

Percolation testing has been suspended until April except for repairs.

### Building Permits

No building permits were reported this period.

### Deed Transfers

Hugh W. Klockars, Jr. to Hugh W. Klockars, Sr. of Branford, CT. 11 and 12 Clearwater Drive. \$1.

Ronald M. Kapinos to Earl R. and Marci A. Jackman of Feeding Hills. Mohawk Estates. Lot 22. \$5,000.

Sherman T. and Elizabeth G. Pike to Sherman T. Pike, Jr. and Anne M. Pike of Rome, NY. off East Ox-bow Road (includes land in Charlemont). \$1.

Delbert E. Brinn III and Pamela A. Brinn to Victoria C. and Thomas Gianni, Sr. Sadoga Road. Lot 7. \$10,000.

David Brown to Sharen L. Brown of Springfield. Mohawk Estates, Lot 68. No consideration.

Robert S. and Christine Fraser Bergquist to Robert L. Sessions. Bray Road. Parcel E. \$25,000.

Paul L. and Marcella R. Lively to Brian DeVriese and Pamela Porter. Number Nine Road. \$6,750.

## HEATH BROOK STUDIO

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## MILESTONES

Brian Neal, a son, was born August 16 to Lisa and Norman Davenport of Tower Road, Shelburne. He is the grandson of Catherine and Bruce Cromack, of Heath, and Martha and Russell Davenport of Shelburne. He is also the great grandson of Hannah Burrington of Heath.

Felicia Marie, a daughter, was born August 17 to Angela Churchill and John Phillips, of Buckland. She is the granddaughter of Jamie and Donald Churchill of Heath.

Tristan James, a son, was born August 20 to Martha and Dale Ward of Buckland. Eva and Luis Pazmino of Heath, and Shirley and Donald Ward of Buckland are grandparents.

Robin Law and Arthur Knapp, Jr., both of Barnstable, MA were married on August 25 at the Heath Union church. She is the daughter of Ruth and Russ Johnson of Heath. He is the son of Arthur and Kitty Knapp of Northfield.

Theresa M. (Giard) Shippee, of Buckland died August 13 at home. Her family lived in North Heath years ago and she attended the school in North Heath. Survivors include five sons, Thomas, Raymond and Mack of Buckland, Timothy of Greenfield and Ronald of Ashfield, a daughter Suzanne Kelly of Buckland. She also leaves behind four brothers, Joseph L. Giard of Heath, Emile Giard of West Melbourne Fla, David Giard of South Hero, VT. and Victor Giard of Malletts Bay, VT., two sisters Alice Gilbert of Colrain and Germaine Lively of Easthampton, also several nieces and nephews in Heath.

## NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS

### Metal Container

The metals container will be available at the Transfer Station through Saturday, November 3, 1990 for appliances and junk metal. Chits for dumping may be obtained at the Post Office. There will not be another metals container available until next year.

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## HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Dr. Martha (Sherman) McDonough of Des Moines, IA, attended the 25th Reunion of her 1965 graduating class of the Franklin County Hospital School of Nursing on September 15. This was held in conjunction with the annual alumni banquet. Her husband, Dr. John T. McDonough, accompanied her and spoke at GCC to the psychology group on "Psycho-therapy and Pain Control". They visited her parents Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Sherman of Heath and left for Des Moines after a short visit.

Fiona Hutchinson, who plays Gabrielle on "One Life to Live" and her husband Sean Drumboole, a writer, were guests of John and Nancy Clark's Bed and Breakfast on Jacksonville Stage Road. They liked Heath very much and said it reminded them of the area in England where Sean grew up.

Patricia E. Venneri of Colrain Brook Road graduated cum laude from Smith College in May 1990 with a B.A. in theatre.

L. Diane Stowe, daughter of Carroll and Peggy Stowe, received a recent promotion to the position of Executive Director of Secretarial Services for the companies of 100 Shield Street, (West Hartford, CT) which are: Consulting Environmental Engineers, Inc.; Informatics Group, Inc.; The Design Forum, Inc.; and Performance Software, Inc. Her new responsibilities include direct liaison functions between corporate management personnel and staff positions, as well as coordinating activities for the presidents of the four firms. Ms. Stowe is a 1983 graduate of Mohawk Trail Regional High School and a 1985 graduate of Bay Path College, Longmeadow, MA.

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