



VOLUME 13 NUMBER 3

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1991

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 50¢

HEATH FAIR NEWS

by Mike Peters

Heath Fair 1991 is finally here. If we could only buy an insurance policy for perfect weather, all our problems would be solved.

The program for this year is almost identical to last year with only a couple small changes. Fireworks are on Saturday instead of Friday, and musical entertainment on Saturday are two very popular bands playing Jazz and Country throughout the day and evening. John Henry never let's us down on his choices for popular bands to play for us.

The fairgrounds are looking very nice with the help of our new tenants. Bob has been working very hard fixing the place up for everyone to enjoy. There was a lot to do after the change of tenancy, but the place looks better than ever and we want to thank Bob for his devotion and pride in caring for the grounds. The grass that was disturbed during the landscaping last fall has grown back almost complete-



CARROLL STOWE IS READY
FOR THE HEATH FAIR
(Photo by Mike Peters)

ly. This is a major relief for the executives and residents that have worked hard spreading hay and seed, in hopes that it would turn out as great as it did. The stone planter was planted by Bonnie Wodin and compliments the attractiveness of the entire grounds. She and David have worked endless hours pulling weeds. We want to thank them for their hard work and valuable time.

That's about all that is worth writing about because everyone will be able to see for themselves how the fair is, one week after the printing date of this article.

EXHIBITORS PLEASE NOTE !!!!

Remember that all entries must be in the hall on Thursday evening between 4:00 and 8:00 pm. Don't forget.

See you at "Heath Fair 1991"

PROGRAM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.

- Exhibit Hall opens 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- 4x4 Pull -- 6 p.m.
- Flea Market
- Concessions, Food, Midway and Rides open 3 p.m. - 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 8:30 a.m. to midnight

- Adult Sheep Show -- 10:00 a.m.
- Exhibit Hall Opens to Public -- 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Poultry Judging -- 10:00 a.m.
- Adult Cattle Show -- 11:00 a.m.
- Horse Draw -- 11:00 a.m.
- Chicken Barbecue -- 12 noon
- Paradise City Jazz Band -- 1:00 - 3:45 p.m.
- Woodsmen's Contest -- 2 p.m.
- Children's Games -- 3 p.m.
- Garden Tractor Pull -- 7:00 p.m.
- Country Comfort (Nashville Country Music) -- 5:00 - 9:30 p.m.
- Square Dance on the Fairgrounds
featuring the "Catamount Mountain Boys" with
Doug Wilkins calling -- 8 p.m. to midnight
- Fireworks -- 9:30 p.m.
- Midway, Concessions, Food and Rides, 8:30 a.m. to midnight

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- Horse Show -- 8 a.m. to evening
- Exhibit Hall Opens to Public -- 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Ox Draw -- 9 a.m. -- Ox Parade, following the draw
- Church Service -- 9:30 a.m.
- Youth Sheep Show -- 10 a.m.
- Youth and Adult Rabbit Show -- 10 a.m.
- Youth Cattle Show -- 11 a.m.
- Fiddlers' Show -- 12 noon to 8 p.m.
- Chicken Barbecue -- 12 noon
- Parade -- 1 p.m.
- The Hilltown Fiddlers & Bluegrass Review
with Winn Fay -- 2:00 to early evening
- Concert by Shelburne Falls Military Band -- after the Parade
Stanley Smithers, Conductor
- Food, Concessions, Midway and Rides 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

HEATH POST OFFICE NEWS

by Marcella R. Lively

As some of you know, our mailman Calvin Ainsworth retired on June 30, after 24 years of excellent service! We got together and secretly collected over \$100, which we presented to him on his last day enclosed in a cute "good-bye" card. The folks across the hall in the library joined us for dessert and orange juice. Needless to say he seemed pleased as punch, so we achieved the effect we strove for, total surprise!

Our new mail carrier is a fine young lady named Heather Kirkpatrick who lives in Hawley. She seems to enjoy her job which is important to any work that is undertaken. At this time I wish to thank all of our patrons who participated by donating money, and in an especial way, the librarians, Alli, Don and Ruth. Also thanks, Ruth, for the delicious apple dessert! Thanks too to Stacie and Helen for your support.

We've had an infestation of wasps who built a nest inside our outdoor mailbox. I got stung the first morning, assuming it was just a random flying insect near the box as I was getting out the mail! Come the next morning I didn't see any of the critters around until I had gotten all the mail out except one letter, then they came out and low and behold, the other hand got it! I realized they were coming from inside the box, so I closed it promptly. Karen MacDougall was in the hall so I mentioned it to her after which she called her husband, Jack, who came pronto with a can of spray and heavy gloves. After spraying inside and underneath he reached in and pulled out a nest. Will wonders never cease! Thanks Karen, Jack and son, John Douglas for coming to our aid! We've got a nice group of people around and that includes our full-timers and our summer friends!

HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Marisa Housner, daughter of Marlene and Richard Housner of Hosmer Road, Heath, has graduated from a five year program at Rhode Island School of Design with a degree in Interior Architecture. She received a BFA in Design from RISD in 1990. She was selected to be the recipient of the Departmental Award for her outstanding work and for her leadership as President of ASID. She presented her senior thesis proposal to a panel of RISD faculty and eight visiting architects: The conversion of a 19th century Providence factory building into a center for performance, dance studios, and artists' residences. The drawings and models of this proposal are currently on exhibit at James Barnes, Architects Studio in Providence. They were viewed by friends and family at her home in Heath on June 2 at a graduation celebration. Marisa attended Rowe Elementary, Mohawk Trail Regional, The Academy at Charlemont, and graduated from Amherst Regional High School.

Luke Housner has missed his summer in Heath. He had been selected as the accompanist for Oberlin Conservatory's Vocal Institute (a summer preparation program for high school students who anticipate auditioning/entering Oberlin). He, as well, has worked this summer with several faculty members in that same capacity and continued his private studies with Sedinara Rutstein. Luke will be entering his junior year at the Conservatory after he attends the Heath Fair this month.

Catherine Wilkins has been accepted for summer admission at Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene, NH, where she will be majoring in environmental studies. She will concentrate on the area of environmental education. Cathy presently teaches science and math at the Academy at Charlemont.



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Managing Editor

Susan Silvester

General Editing & Layout

Pegge Howland

Copy Editor

David Gibbons

Staff Reporters

Edith Royer

Beverly denOuden

Todd Sumner

Karen Brooks

Elsa Bakalar

Michael D. Coe

Bill Lattrell

Carroll Stowe

Bonnie Woodin

Staff Photographer

Michael Peters

Advertising

Ray Pettengill

Circulation & Business

Terry Pettengill

Typography

Arlene Markert

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Send all correspondence to Box 54, Heath, MA 01346



MARISA HOUSNER
(Family Photo)

HEATH PRECIPITATION

The Heath precipitation report will be included in the next issue of the *Heath Herald*.

LETTERS

The Heath and Rowe School Committees have agreed to appoint a committee to explore the feasibility of developing a multi-year tuition agreement for the two communities. This course of action is necessary in view of the fact that the current tuition agreement between Heath and Rowe expires at the end of the 1991-1992 school year.

In my opinion, it's very important that a multi-year agreement be concluded that will provide a place for Heath students at Rowe School. For many years Heath students have been attending Rowe School. This has been, and continues to be a very positive arrangement for students from both communities and should continue in the future.

In Massachusetts a new law (School Choice) has been passed which will allow parents to enroll their children in any public school in the Commonwealth. This law will have an impact on enrollment patterns in area schools. The Rowe School Committee has already received a request for enrolling students who reside outside of the nine town Mohawk area under the provisions of the School Choice legislation.

With the passage of the new law it will be advantageous for Heath to conclude a tuition agreement that will assure space for their students. Heath parents need to be assured that their children can be enrolled and have the opportunity to complete their elementary education at Rowe School.

Even though the regionalization proposal was defeated by Rowe voters in May, I've never had anyone express any dissatisfaction with Heath students attending Rowe School. It's my belief that the concerns about regionalization dealt more with organizational and governance questions rather than any objections about the attendance of Heath students at Rowe.

The Heath School Committee has appointed several committees to explore options for educating their elementary students. Another consideration is the fact that eight towns in the Mohawk area may be examining a K-12 organizational structure in the near future. However, it will require a number of years before any permanent solution can be found for housing Heath's elementary students.

With all of these factors in mind, it would be logical for Heath and Rowe School Committees to conclude a tuition agreement for several years that would provide the necessary time for these various options to be explored.

Bruce E. Willard
Superintendent of Schools

TO THE EDITOR:

I've been a homeowner in Heath since 1974. I know that's not a long time in the great scheme of things, but it has been long enough that I've seen some major issues come and go in the town. I've worked in Greenfield, North Adams, and currently in Northampton, but have never had any desire to make my home anywhere else. I only mention this because it's the backdrop for a really disturbing question my daughter asked me a few weeks ago. Like everybody else, she had been hearing the recent controversy about the Rowe plant, and she asked me "What would happen if the Rowe plant had a major accident; would we have to leave Heath forever?"

Well, I didn't know the answer to this, but it certainly was a scary question. I realized that I hadn't really been paying attention to the debate in the media, and that I wasn't clear about what the arguments were about Rowe. I have been grateful since I've lived in Heath that the Rowe plant has an excellent safety record and is staffed by people who know what they're doing.

So I started noticing articles and reports about Rowe, and what I've found out makes me pretty nervous. From what I can tell, the situation at Rowe now is different from what it's ever been before. There's a very good possibility that thirty years of radiation have weakened important parts of the plant, specifically the pressure vessel (the container that would keep the radiation in if there were a problem). The Union of Concerned Scientists, which has members who are nuclear scientists - even some who used to work for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the NRC) - thinks this could very well be true. They're saying it's very possible that no matter how good a job our neighbors are doing at the plant, some important walls and welds might be brittle enough to break. In fact, the NRC itself estimates now that on a couple of indicators - something they call "reference temperature" and "fracture toughness" - the Rowe plant has measurements that are in violation of the NRC's own safety requirements. But they don't know for sure, because the pressure vessel hasn't been inspected.

I'd really like to find out if this is true. I don't think we can tell if it's true just by listening to what people say about the plant. I think that inspectors have to find out now - I mean now - whether the building materials at Rowe are still good or not.

I don't yet know the answer to my daughter's question, but I know enough to know that at this point I should be concerned about the Rowe plant. For the first time I want some answers about Rowe, not guesses, and I think the plant's other neighbors should too.

Mike Chrisman
Heath

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A NECESSARY STORY

by Michael D. Coe

Leaning at a cockeyed angle by the side of a small road in Sheffield, in the southwestern corner of Massachusetts, is a rough granite monument that tells the passerby that the last battle of Shays' Rebellion took place here, on February 27, 1787. I seriously doubt that one in a hundred persons who glance at this forlorn marker has a clear idea of what Shays' Rebellion was, let alone what it was all about, yet it was the most serious challenge to the authority of the Federal government of this country until the opening salvo of the Civil War. It was a grass roots insurrection that in its small way took on certain aspects of that great social cataclysm which was to rock France to its foundations in a few years time, and it was centered in the hill towns of western Massachusetts.

How one looks on Shays' Rebellion very much depends on one's own political viewpoint and general outlook. It inspired Thomas Jefferson's famous words:

"I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical ... The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure."

In contrast, Heath's own odious psalm-singer, Josiah Holland, castigated the rebels in his 1855 History of Western Massachusetts in no uncertain terms:

... their entire lack of moral power, their utter cowardice, their boastings and their threatenings, their insolence and malice, their outrages and robberies -- apology for them stammers with the weight it carries.

Holland's views were typical of the nineteenth century, but more recent historians, such as David Szatmary (Shays' Rebellion, 1980), have been considerably more sympathetic to Daniel Shays and his fellow farmers -- or at least more understanding of their predicament. And those who follow the news media may be aware that the present-day tax uproars in our hill towns are often called, with forgivable exaggeration, a "second Shays' Rebellion".

There is little disagreement about the root cause of the enormous discontent that erupted into open defiance of the government: during the 1780's like today, Massachusetts was suffering a profound economic crisis. The great merchants in the eastern towns and cities, and in inland market towns like Springfield, desperately wished to resume their lucrative trade with England, but the "mother country" demanded cash on the barrelhead from her former colony and vindictively cut it off from trade with the West Indies; there was thus a widespread credit crunch in the state. These wholesalers then cracked down on the retail storekeepers, who in turn then pressured their debtors, the subsistence farmers of the countryside to whom they had been selling manufactured goods on credit.

These retailers, especially in western Massachusetts, forced the farmers into courts to collect their debts, and many were imprisoned; foreclosures were the rule of the day. What people found particularly unfair in all this was that a good proportion of those hauled into the Court of Common Pleas in Northampton (then the seat of Hampshire County) were returned veterans from a war which was purportedly against oppression. To give an idea of the extent of the problem, between August 1784

and August 1786, 2,977 debt cases were prosecuted in Northampton, a 262% increase over the 1770-72 period; 31.4% of the county's male citizens over the age of 16 were involved.

Remembering that all this was going on when the Federal Government was weak (the United States was only a Confederation with no President) as was the state government, it is little surprise that the 'embattled farmers' of the region sought some kind of immediate relief, and eventually took up arms when this was not forthcoming. Szatmary makes a good case that the Rebellion, when it came, was the outcome of a clash between a largely subsistence and family-based, community-oriented culture of independent farmer-yeomen and an acquisitive, individualistic way of life dominated by merchants like John Hancock in Boston, professionals (mostly lawyers and doctors), speculators, and commercial farmers. In other words, it marked "the tumultuous effects of transition from traditional society to merchant capitalism", and it was the farmers of the hill towns who eventually lost.

The malcontents began to meet to see what they could do. Calling themselves the "Regulators", they came up with several demands. One of these was the closing of debtor courts. Another was lowering of taxes (sound familiar?). Another was the issuance of paper money, as they knew this would depreciate, easing their debt burden. And the final one was the passing of a "Tender Law", which would enable them to pay their debts with farming surplus (such as flax and grain). Although their well-off enemies accused them of planning the overthrow of government and the distribution of wealth, their initial demands never went this far.

The movement never had an outstanding leader, but the insurgents began to rally around Daniel Shays of Pelham, a hero of Bunker Hill who had resigned his captain's commission in 1780. Like other veteran-farmers, he had been arrested for debt, but was never imprisoned.

As the merchant-dominated General Court (the legislature) in Boston had no intention of redressing their grievances, the farmers decided to act, and on August 29, 1786, an armed group shut down the debt court in Northampton, threatening to "knock the grey wigs off the judges". This was followed by similar court closures elsewhere in Massachusetts, but insurrectionary actions in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Connecticut fizzled out or were put down. The alarmed Governor Bowdoin of Massachusetts called up the militia, but in the western part of the state many were sympathetic to the Shaysites. A far more serious action was the march on Springfield, its courthouse, and armory by several thousand rebels in January 1787. By this time, the commercial elite in the Boston area had raised an army of 4,400 men led by the corpulent but competent General Benjamin Lincoln to put down the rebellion.

Before the government troops could arrive, a force of 1,000 militia with an artillery piece had routed the Shaysites and prevented them from getting their hands on the armory's weapons and ammunition. The insurgents faded into the countryside, harassing detested targets like storekeepers and lawyers, and taking some of them prisoner. During the end of January and in the first week of February, General Lincoln, with 3,000 troops dragging artillery through deep snow, surprised the rebels at Petersham and inflicted a second defeat on them. Late in that month, the rebels met Lincoln's forces one last time, in that field near Sheffield, with thirty farmers killed, but only three government troops slain. That was not the end of the Shaysites -- some of them

continued attacking merchants and government military leaders, including the property of a Greenfield store owner -- but their days were numbered.

Shays and others escaped to Vermont, where Ethan Allen had been sympathetic to their cause, but fourteen captured rebels were sentenced to be hanged. Magnanimously and very wisely, they were subsequently reprieved, and even Shays himself was to be pardoned. Shays, like many others, moved with his family to pioneer lands north and west (some went as far as Ohio); he spun out the rest of his days on an upstate New York farm, dying at the age of 84 in total obscurity, and lies in an unmarked grave.

The aftermath of Shays' Rebellion is more important than the rebellion itself. It convinced many important Americans, above all George Washington himself, that a strong Federal government able to cope with emergencies of this sort was an absolute necessity. The Shaysite insurrection shocked the States into full participation in the Convention that met in Philadelphia in May, 1787, and the framing and adoption of a United States Constitution. But what about our poor, debt-ridden farmers? There was a happy ending here, too, for there was soon an economic upswing in Massachusetts, as its exports soared. The legislature in Boston, in a more helpful frame of mind, passed a one-year Tender Act, and the farmers could pay off their debts.

As for those Shayites who fell bloodied in Sheffield, I can but quote Auden:

History to the defeated

May say Alas but cannot help or pardon.

A postscript; in case you might have wondered, no Heath farmer is known to have been involved in Shays' rebellion.

EMT COURSE OFFERED

Franklin Medical Center is planning a Basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course for those individuals wishing to prepare for the Massachusetts Basic EMT certification exam. The course will be held from September through December, one day a week from 8:30 AM to 3 PM. The actual day of the week will be selected based on the schedules of interested participants. The course will be held only if a minimum of 20 people sign-up.

The course fee will be \$200 and includes books, handouts and all necessary equipment. A state testing fee (\$65) is required by Massachusetts for the certification exam, and is due upon completion of the course.

No prior medical background is required and students must be at least 18 years of age prior to the completion of the course.

For further information, or to ask questions, please call Franklin Medical Center's Health Education Department at (413) 772-0211, Ext. 2232.



Green Thoughts

by

ELSA BAKALAR

This looks like quite a year for surprises in the garden. First, there were the things that came earlier than usual, then there were some that waited out the early heat and came out later, after rain.

For me, the result has been flower borders with tall plants in front (they were short plants last year, for goodness' sake!) often blocking small flowers behind them. Many of my favorite combinations, that I look forward to each year, bloomed out of "synch" this year, but provided a few but totally unexpected pleasures.

Early in the season, we heard dire predictions of rampant disease and serious insect damage in gardens. Certainly, there were a great number of strange insects, rolling leaves and eating holes in everything. Rabbits were a menace in some gardens; I lost a whole border of Asiatic lilies. But I had some pleasant surprises, too - fewer slugs, for one, and fewer Japanese beetles. Powdery mildew has been a general problem, turning phloxes an unhealthy felty white. I get many questions about this after lectures, and, in desperation, I have decided upon a response. I suggest three stages in dealing with it: 1) pretend you can't see it; 2) pretend you like it ("What a pretty white leaf ..."); 3) decide you don't and cut off most of the stems at ground level - chances are the new growth will be completely clean.

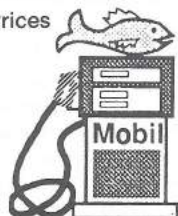
Near-drought conditions make us appreciate plants that do well with very little rainfall. It's no surprise to find that many of these are American natives. One that is bigger and better than ever, this year, is the coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*). Mine are standing up, strong and tall, impervious to wind and burning sun. Backed by tall ornamental grasses, they make a prairie scene in miniature. Blazing Star or Kansas Gayfeather (*Liatris*) and Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias*) are other natives unfazed by the dry heat. You might enjoy seeing the possibilities of these plants from the catalogues of nurseries specializing in North American natives. Two attractive ones: Prairie Nursery, P.O. Box 306, Westfield, Wisconsin 53964 (\$2); and Native Gardens, Box 464, Greenback, Tennessee 37742 (\$1).

With all the hazards of this season, it's anybody's guess what the flower and produce entries will be like in this year's Heath Fair. But we'll keep our fingers crossed. Don't forget the change in the day that entries have to be brought to the hall this year - on Thursday, August 15.

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WILD RAMBLINGS

"THE COPERNICUS CONNECTION"

by Bill Lattrell

When it comes to the natural world, few people give credit where credit is due. It is a tendency of man to think he (painfully, more often than she) is the center of the Universe. For centuries, and as measured in time not long ago, humankind believed that all of the Universe, the sun and the stars, revolved around our domain, the Earth. Copernicus, the sixteenth century astronomer, set the world ablaze upon proving that the earth was but a small cog in the wheel of the solar system, dutifully circling our star, the sun. And later it was shown that the sun was also a small cog in the wheel of a much larger universe. Centuries later a man named Charles Darwin, in writing the Origin of Species, really upset the human ego appletart when he put forth the theory of evolution. This theory, hotly debated between scientists and theologians for decades after its introduction, took man off of the throne as king of the earth and equated him to the rest of the natural world, simply by stating he came from it. Although there are some people who still think the world flat, and that man did not evolve from the animal kingdom, most people agree that the position man holds in the natural world is not as superior as once thought. Yet we still credit ourselves with much in terms of "inventions" and new ideas that have existed quietly in the natural world for millennia. This way of thinking proves to be dangerous, especially in these times when so much of the natural world is being lost. Without the natural world man would be hard-pressed to improve his material world. All of our current ideas, technologies, and theories are based upon concepts that already occur in nature. Simply put, said the great naturalist Loren Eisely, we do not invent anything, we merely discover what already exists.

There are countless examples of the natural world coming to the rescue of the human condition, either by discoveries enabling man to counter attack terrible diseases, or by contributing to improvement of the human habitat. Scientists consistently turn to the natural world when looking for disease preventions and cures. The reason for this is simple. Nature has had millions of years to experiment with nearly every possible combination of chemicals and elements. Both the plant and animal kingdom have undergone countless changes to adapt to environmental conditions. Many eminent naturalists believe the natural world to be of a reciprocal order. That is for every condition there is an antidote.

There are many obvious examples of this thought. Louis Pasteur discovered penicillin by experimenting with bread mold and discovering this fungi had the unique ability to prohibit the growth of many bacterias. He also developed the notion of vaccinations. He injected incredibly small doses of a foreign body into an animal so that the natural immune system gradually developed antibodies, thereby enabling the animal to be resistant to the particular foreign body when exposed to it. By dabbling in the natural world of fungi and bacteria, Pasteur was able to set the stage for future medical scientists, the result being generally longer and more comfortable lives for the human population.

Very recently scientists have been studying spider venom as an antidote for the terrible effects of Alzheimer's Disease. It is thought that the spider ven-

om, collected from a certain species in Utah and Arizona, neutralizes chemicals released at the onset of Alzheimer's that blocks or destroy normal brain cell activity. If research proves this to be correct, then scientists will be able to copy the venom chemically, or perhaps even clone it to develop an Alzheimer's treatment.

Another recent development is the research being done on plant galls in order to gain a much better understanding of cancer and tumor development. Plant galls are plant tumors that are created when fungi or insects release chemicals that cause rapid cell division to occur. By studying these chemicals and the tumor development scientists hope to develop a better understanding of tumor development and perhaps even gain some strong insight into tumor development prevention. This information may one day lead the human to be able to prevent or cure one of the most terrible of all diseases, cancer. For all of our knowledge of the living world, both plant and animal, there are still thousands of species that have not yet been identified. Each one of these undiscovered species holds a very special place on this planet, and it is likely that many of those species could provide important information that may one day benefit man in a very big way.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands of plant and animal species, many of which have not yet been identified, are being lost for eternity each year, most with the destruction of the rain forests of the world.

Beyond medicine there are dozens of fine examples of man learning from nature in order to provide a better world to live in, at least from a human perspective. As human population increases the need for hydroelectric production, water supply, and recreation all are made possible by the building and maintenance of dams. This technology first thought of and perfected by the beaver, is the direct result of man studying nature. Human flight via airplanes and other devices seems commonplace today. Yet for centuries humans had longingly watched other animals and plants of the natural world glide around effortlessly. Eventually our diligence paid off. By studying flying plants and animals we were able to get a good enough understanding of the physical principals of flight to try it ourselves. With this effort time and distance have become much shorter. The human has reduced the size of his universe. A much simpler example of man copying nature can be found in the miracle fastener, Velcro. This technology was copied directly from the burdock plant by a very astute observer who noted the tenacity of this seed broadcasting system and applied it to the human world. It is impossible to predict what secrets the natural world holds for us to discover; efficient nuclear fusion for the production of energy?, time travel? The possibilities are mind boggling.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands of plant and animal species, many of which have not yet been identified, are being lost for eternity each year, most with the destruction of the rain forests of the world. Each of these species is a specific product of millions of

years of evolution. Each of these species holds a unique relationship to the natural world that no other species holds. Each of these species is one of a kind, and once lost cannot be replaced. And each of these species may provide man with an opportunity to save thousands of lives, improve the human condition, or even provide us with an understanding that will bring peace to the earth. The loss of this many unique organisms equates to the beginning of a new dark age for modern science. The human, the great adaptor, could lose his information base from which new discoveries would come.

All of this is not to say that man does not hold a very special place in the world. We alone have the ability to both reason and manipulate. Too long we have been manipulating first and reasoning second rather than the reverse. Man alone has the capability of understanding the interrelationships of all organisms and elements on our planet. This can only be accomplished if a reasonable number of pieces to the jigsaw puzzle are available to put together so that we can see the intended design. It is within our grasp to act as excellent stewards of the earth while at the same time improving the human condition.

The human being dominates the world, no doubt. Currently we are frantically spending much of our time and energy trying to undo what should not have been done. In our haste we have forgotten the lesson that Copernicus taught us centuries ago; that man is not the center of the universe. Better we should spend our time, energies, and the great human resources of reason and manipulation understanding the natural world. And it, in turn, will help us to understand ourselves.



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LIBRARY LINES

by Alli Thane

The library summer reading program is underway. Prizes for the busiest readers will be awarded at the Heath Fair.

Nicole Rainville is teaching Origami. Thirteen young people are enrolled.

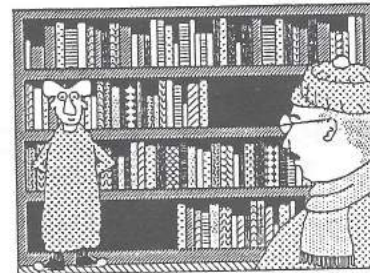
We have had many donations of new and used books. Don Dekker and I are busy sorting out the books we can use for the library. The rest will be sold at the Fair by the Friends of the Library. We hope to make enough money for a new encyclopedia. Thank you all.

The Heath Council on Aging has purchased several new audio books:

Bill Corey Rides West
The Old Contemptibles
Wild Mountain Thyme
Streetcar Named Desire
The Wild Island
St. Thomas Eve
Thrush Green

Louis L'Amour
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Antonia Fraser
Jean Plaidy
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The library will be closed on August 17. See you at the Fair.



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HEATH PARK COMMITTEE NEWS

The most visible activity at the Heath Community Park this summer has surely been on the basketball court. In this its first full summer of being available, the court is enjoying widespread use - even in the dead heat of mid-July! Court users and other park visitors will soon be greeted by a welcome sign, announcing the park's sunrise to sunset hours and explaining the park rules.

Less visible activity, on the part of the park committee, is also underway. A look at the park through the eyes of gardeners Pat Leuchtman and Bonnie Wodin has produced some preliminary thoughts about landscaping - including a walking path around the periphery of the lower field, with labeled interesting native plants and trees, and places to sit along the way. This represents the beginning of what we expect to be a long, but immensely satisfying process of landscaping the park as a whole. Let us know if you have ideas to share.

By late August, we expect to see the big flat rock which has sat among the picnic tables transformed into a memorial stone. Then, on September 21 we will have a park dedication ceremony and the first plantings of a memorial garden which will have the stone at its center. The third weekend in August will find us at the Heath Fair, selling pocket bread sandwiches and fruit salad to raise money for a new small slide for the play structure.

Finally, the committee would like to extend a special thanks to Jason Peace for his careful mowing and maintenance of the park this summer. It looks great!

CHOLESTEROL SCREENING CLINIC SCHEDULED

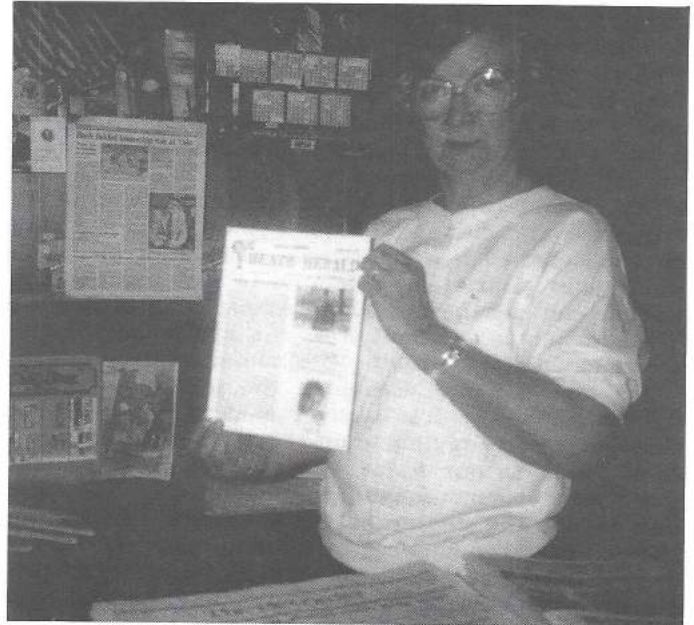
by Virginia Taylor

Charlemont Council on Aging with Athol Community Health Service and Mohawk Valley Health Education Services using Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs formula grant funds will conduct a cholesterol screening clinic. It will be held at the Charlemont Senior Center, Babcock Hall, Main Street (across from Charlemont Inn), Charlemont on Wednesday, August 28, 1991 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED** and may be made by calling the Senior Center (339-4201) on **WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS** only, from 9 AM to 2. This clinic is for west county residents and the number of reservations is limited to 60 so please call early. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

HEATH HERALD NOW AT SAWYER NEWS

by Susan Silvester

Issues of the *Heath Herald* are now available at Sawyer News in Shelburne Falls. Proprietors Donald and Kathy Upton are generously selling copies of the current edition so that our Shelburne Falls neighbors can stay in touch with news from Heath.



JANET BINDER DISPLAYS HEATH HERALD AT SAWYER NEWS IN SHELBURNE
(Photo by Susan Silvester)

ART EXHIBIT

by David Gibbons


An exhibit featuring paintings of local scenes and old houses by Fred Burrington will be on display at Heath Union Church, August 18 and 19 from 10 AM to 4 PM.

The show, entitled "The Heath Exhibit - works on paper by Fred Burrington" will open with a reception from 7 - 9 PM on August 17. Refreshments will be provided by the Heath Gourmet Group.

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The Way It Is In The Country

*"If it's old, works well and has a purpose in life,
don't change it".*

by **CARROLL STOWE**

Most folks will agree that Sunday, July 21 was a rather hot day. I had a good attitude about the day even though it was hot. The day before I had experienced one of my few successes at being able to get my old hay baler back among the working balers of Heath. Old, slow and grossly out-dated, it is one of my links with an earlier time when I practically lived with hay.

It really felt good to go to church and enjoy Reverend Peace's sermon. But as with small boys I can be distracted. I was distracted a bit to look out the open west window of the church in Heath Center and from time to time observe Jason and Roger Clark's steers in their pasture. I couldn't see all 4 of them all the time but knew they were in close proximity to each other. They were standing and grazing and switching flies. It is very unfortunate that flies and biting insects have to torment them so. They would eventually get their fill and find a shady spot and in the words of the tremendous vet writer James Herriot start that slow lateral grinding motion that tells of an animal of the bovine breed's contentment and good health.



**JASON CLARK WITH HIS OXEN
IN HEATH CENTER**
(Photo by Susan Silvester)

Jason Clark is 12 years old and it pleases me so much that he has an interest in raising and breaking a yoke of cattle. They are half-brothers, black and white, mostly black Holsteins. The near steer's name is Star and the off-one is Nite. If you were driving a yoke of cattle on the road, the steer on your near right as you stand in the center of the road facing the same direction as the cattle is the near steer or ox. The critter to your far right is the off ox or steer.

Before starting to write this description of my distraction on Sunday, I took the time to interview Jason and his dad. Jason is to be commended for his ability at such a young age. He picked out the calves he wanted from his uncle Darwin Clark's herd and

named them and for the most part trained them under his father's most watchful tutelage. I would be much surprised if grandfather Darwin Clark didn't provide Jason with an occasional trick from many years of bringing cattle to work ability. That combination of teachers would be most difficult to fault.

This father, son, and grandfather type of relationship teaches that above all pure patience is a must when bringing small calves up to a workable unit. It is most unfortunate that our lives have to be such fast-paced and money-conscious that a young fellow can't have several yoke of cattle coming on and be able to make his eventual entire later life living with his oxen, and I refer to the whole bit, marriage, house, raising a family and all. If there were the support people out there in later years to provide the continual work for working cattle a better place this area would be.

The pure artistry of the tremendous unhurried attitude of an ox, can't help but keep a man's blood pressure at an acceptable level.

Roger Clark's steers, 3 years old, are half holstein and half Texas longhorn. The near steer is Jake and the off steer is Buck. The many years experience Roger has afforded himself with his various yokes of cattle shows with every team he creates. These are God's creatures but Roger creates workable, useful animals of them and with his tremendous patience develops this patience in his son and his own animals. What a compounded influence this is. I am always pleased to see cattle working and I can only be a bit envious of a young man of Jason's patience and ability. As a teenager, I desperately wanted a yoke of steers, but it was not to be. As the earlier immigrations of folks headed west they found that the long horned breed of cattle or their crosses had the greatest stamina.

At a point in time when Jason was real small I asked his sister, Laurel, if they had gotten a pair of steer calves yet and she said that they had not but that her new brother had nice long fingers to be able to hold a whip stock very well. I am always pleased when a family like the Clarks are all supportive of a family member that wants to pursue this type of endeavor. Had I not elected to go to church Sunday I would not have heard a good sermon or been able to have the idea of the steer story. I especially want to thank the Clarks for their time and talent.



WORKING OXEN IS A CLARK TRADITION
(Photo by Susan Silvester)

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Pegge Howland, President

The Heath Historical Society invites you to attend the Annual Meeting which will be held on Saturday, August 10, 1991.

EVENTS

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 5:30 PM | Old Town House Museum open for viewing |
| 6:30 PM | Potluck Supper downstairs in the Community Hall |
| 7:30 PM | Business meeting upstairs in the Community Hall |
| 8:00 PM | Speaker upstairs in the Community Hall |

Our speaker this year will be Dr. Hugh Davis, author of the book Joshua Leavitt, Evangelical Abolitionist published in 1990 by Louisiana State University Press. His talk will be about Joshua Leavitt, his role in the Abolitionist Movement and his ties with Heath. Joshua, Ed Calver reminds us, was the grandson of Parson Jonathan Leavitt, Heath's first minister.

Dr. Davis is Professor of History at Southern Connecticut State University. He received a B.A. from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1963 and a Ph. D. from Ohio State University in 1969. Much of his research has focused on pre-Civil War reform and radicalism, and he has published numerous articles in history journals on the subject of antebellum reform. He is presently working on a biography of Leonard Bacon, a prominent nineteenth-century church leader, reformer and editor.

The events are free and open to the public. All are welcome. See you there!

CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Roger Peace

Reflecting back to our recent Vacation Bible School, I don't believe I could have been more pleased. The expressions on the children's and teens' faces said it all. Everyone enjoyed themselves, whether it was in the classroom, singing, snacks, crafts or activities. The youth group from Talbot Bible Church in Maryland did a tremendous job, and I was very proud of them. Their dedication and willingness to help us was very much appreciated. I wish you all could have met these young people because you would have been impressed. As for the result of their labor, the first night of VBS 25 children came, but each day it grew and by Friday, 54 were present. This was the real indication of how well the VBS program was run. I also want to thank everyone who helped make this a success. The cookies, showers, use of the Community Hall and Fairgrounds were all greatly appreciated. A special thanks to Mr. Green for the use of his home.

At the time of writing, the church is preparing for the Craft Show we sponsor each year. This year we are privileged to have the Ladies Aid join us. Hopefully this will continue. The youth are working on a float for the Heath Fair. They still have some candy left, if you are interested. I am very proud of the hard work the youth did selling candy, making over \$500 profit. They are starting to do some puppet work. We could use more puppets if anyone is willing to purchase or make a puppet for the youth group. Patterns are available.

Remember children, Sunday School begins in September, so hope to see you there. Also, our adult Bible study will resume in September as well. In August we celebrate our third anniversary in Heath. The Peace family is very grateful for the love shown to us over those years, and we look forward to the future in Heath. We are going to do the same slide presentation we did while we were on vacation to our former churches. Watch for the date. See you at the Fair for Sunday morning service. May God's love shine on you and through you.

God bless.

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Budge Litchfield

The School Committee hopes all of you are enjoying summer vacation. We certainly are. As should be the case during the summer we have reduced our meeting schedule and workload. There are three areas of work to be described in this report: work on preschool funding, Mohawk budget and long-range planning.

At the August School Committee meeting (held on July 29) we focused part of our time on a discussion of how to secure consistent funding for our preschool program. There is a lot of risk in depending on state grants. The entire budget (roughly \$40,000) cannot be secured by fund raising alone. Should this be a part of the regular school budget? How much should parents pay as tuition? If you have any thoughts, please share them with a School Committee member or Pam Porter.

It looks like Mohawk finally has a budget and a gas conversion project. It was a long, hard struggle and the School Committee would like to thank the voters of Heath for their support in these matters.

Although some of us are kind of tired and therefore moving rather slowly on this project at the moment, long-range planning will continue. After a very interesting, brainstorming session at our June meeting, we organized ourselves in the following fashion. The School Committee will function as a coordinating and information receiving body. There are three study groups each focusing on one of the following areas: tuition arrangements, construction project(s) and funding sources. These groups will report to the School Committee during the first hour of each monthly meeting. We need more help and energy. If you are interested, please call Budge (337-9957). We hope to make final reports to the town by early winter.

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ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

by Phillip O'Reilly, Principal

For the first time in many years the kindergarten children will no longer have Ruth Johnson greeting them on their first day of school. But for many of them, the smiling face that greets them on September 4th, will be the familiar face of Arlene Markert.

Arlene Markert, Heath resident and former second grade aide at Rowe School has been hired as the new kindergarten teacher. Arlene was selected as the finalist from a field of thirteen candidates back in June after she had successfully interviewed with a search team consisting of school staff, school committee and parents from both Heath and Rowe.

Arlene joins the Rowe team with a Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education. In addition she has several years of experience working with young children, in addition to the time she spent here at Rowe School with last year's second grade.

Arlene feels strongly about the importance of working with parents, other staff members and children, to create a safe and comfortable classroom environment for youngsters who, for the most part, are experiencing school for the first time. Arlene has a keen awareness of what is developmentally appropriate for kindergarten youngsters and, at the same time, is eager to work to develop the individual potential of each and every kindergarten student.

On behalf of the staff and school committees, I would like to welcome Arlene to a new job here at Rowe School, and to offer our continued support to her as she begins this new phase in her profession.

CARPENTER AWARDS AT ROWE ELEMENTARY

Gabriel Porter-Henry and Tucker Litchfield received the Carpenter Award at their graduation from Rowe Elementary on June 17. The awards are given to Heath students who show academic and social achievement while attending Rowe School.

Gabe is the son of Deb Porter and John Henry of Number Nine Road. Tucker is the son of Sheila and Budge Litchfield of the Dell.

The Carpenter Award is given annually by Harriet Reed, formerly of Heath and now of Greenfield, and was started by her father.

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HEATH PUBLIC PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Pam Porter

"Will there be a preschool next year?" "What's happening with the preschool?" These are the questions I am most often asked these days. As of this writing we have no word from the state about our grant application but we hope to hear something soon. Meanwhile we are working hard on the usual summer fundraising events and also sharing conversations with the School Committee, the Mary Lyon Education Fund and interested townspeople about the future of the school.

It has been twelve years since Deb Porter and Sheila Litchfield first began a preschool program. The oldest graduate of the school, Justine Babineau, will be a junior at Mohawk this fall. Over the years the program has grown from a small playgroup at Deb Porter's home serving about twelve children a year to a public program at the Community Hall, serving between twenty and thirty children per year from Heath and Rowe. In the past four years, almost every three and four year old in the two towns has attended. Twelve years. Twelve years of parent fundraisers, twelve years of committee work and planning, twelve years of program and playground development, of investment in equipment and physical space. Twelve years of people in this town working very hard to provide the advantage of preschool education to our children. We have come from a private school, serving only those who could afford it to a public program, serving all the young children in our two towns. This is an accomplishment to which we can point with pride. It is an accomplishment that reflects the sense of community that makes Heath a special place to live.

But still, after twelve years, the question I am most often asked is, "Will there be a preschool next year?" Will there be a preschool next year? Let me ask the question of you. Because really, the answer depends on you. Maybe the state will help us this year and maybe it won't. Maybe it will help us in the future and maybe it won't. Sooner or later we as a town are going to have to weigh the value of this program to our children and community and decide what we want to do about it. And if we feel that it is worth it; if we feel that our community and our young children are worth it, we are going to have to take responsibility for the continuation of the school into our own hands. Think of the children you know, your neighbors, your children, your grandchildren, who have attended the preschool. What has it meant to them? What would their lives be like without the preschool? What would the life our community be like without the preschool?

Over the past twelve years the Heath Preschool has been fortunate to have had so many active and generous people contribute their time and efforts to keeping this program alive. As more and more people have seen the positive effect of this program on their children and grandchildren, have seen their children and grandchildren grow and flourish at preschool, support for it has grown steadily. But it is no news to anyone that these are hard times. Now more than ever we need the support of the community to preserve this program. Will there be a preschool next year? It is time we began to think of a way to answer this question yes, once and for all.

Here are some answers to the other question, "What's happening with the preschool?" At Rowe Old Home Days at the preschool booth, we sold 50/50 raffle tickets and had some spin art and some games of

skill and chance for children. The winner of the raffle was Bob Taylor of Rowe who generously returned his winnings to the school. Be sure you thank him when you see him. Bob is the uncle of preschool alumnus Simon Taylor ('90). Also, we are in the process of conducting an appeal by mail for contributions to the school. Donations of all sizes would be gratefully received. If you did not receive our letter but would like to make a contribution, you can send one to Heath Preschool, Box 25, Heath, MA, 01346. We urge you to be generous with this tax deductible contribution.

Like everyone else we are busy with fair plans. We hope to have a dunking booth and are taking names of people you would most like to see take the plunge. Suggestions may be made to Deb Plant (337-8378), Judy Almeida (337-8585), Deb Gilbert (337-4351) Michelle Cutter (337-4387) or Pam Porter (337-5525). We will have our usual raffle and this year would like to declare Sunday at the Fair Heath Preschool Alumni Day. We are inviting any and all preschool alumni to wear a red bandanna on their sleeve and walk together in the parade. Even if you are involved in other parade entries you can wear the arm band. We will be giving you a call, but if for some reason you don't hear from us, call one of the people listed above. See you at the fair.

Editor's Note:

The preschool will indeed open this September. Thanks to the efforts of Pam Porter, a State grant of \$27,617 has been secured. Although Pam is feeling "really encouraged", an additional \$9,000 is still needed; your generous donations are more necessary than ever to help our preschool overcome this last financial hurdle.



JOHN MACDOUGALL SITS WITH A FRIEND
(Photo by Mike Peters)

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Art Schwenger

The Board of Selectmen concluded its search for a new police chief. Thomas Rabbitt of North Heath was appointed and sworn in on July 16. The Selectmen were impressed by Tom's qualifications and genuine interest in serving the town. He is a graduate of the Massachusetts Police Academy and a Lieutenant in the State's Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement. He serves as supervisor in the Hunter-Education Bureau. He has been working closely with Carl Herzig to effect a smooth transition and will catalog equipment, review the town's police policies and make recommendations to the Selectmen concerning any changes needed. We welcome Tom to a very important and challenging town office.

The first round of interviews for Highway Superintendent have been completed. Eleven candidates were interviewed and a second round will be scheduled with several of the strongest candidates. Dohn Sherman is continuing in the role of acting-superintendent. He has been keeping the highway crew busy doing hot patch, drainage and roadside cut-back. The Selectmen hired Bob Tanner into a temporary position on the crew. Repairs to the town's bucket loader transmission have been completed and an overall appraisal by the repair firm reports that the loader is in good shape. The transmission repair cost over \$5000.

In other highway department news, the town is on the list to participate in the County Sheriff's Department work program. If the town is selected, a supervised crew will come to town to perform brush cutting work along our roads at no cost. A revised policy on the disposal of wood and roadside gravel produced in the maintenance of the roads has been finished. For residents interested in these commodities, the policy can be acquired from the Administrative Secretary at Sawyer Hall. The last pair of garage doors at the town shed and Fire Department have been installed. We now have all new and completely functional doors.

The Selectmen implemented a new and expanded dog restraining order for the entire town. All dogs are to be restrained from running at large and those in the area zoned as Heath Center must be tied or on a leash. Carl Herzig is continuing to serve as dog officer and is authorized to enforce this policy. Copies are available at the town hall.

The Selectmen held their organizational meeting. Dave Howland will continue as chairman and Art Schwenger as clerk of the board. Walt Gleason will continue to be on the Board of Health. Dave Howland will now be the 3-town dump committee representative with Walt Gleason as alternate. A list of the other appointments is posted and available at the town hall.

The town's funding status is still unclear. Cherry sheets have not been received. Knowledgeable estimates would indicate that we are in the range of a balanced budget, but we do not know for sure.

Some discussion has been conducted in relation to the Yankee Atomic Electric Plant. A lightning strike at the station last month and at various other locations in the area knocked out a transformer and a number of communications systems temporarily. The safety systems at the plant worked as planned and our Heath emergency personnel were notified through back-up channels. The Selectmen received a letter from the director of Massachusetts civil De-

fense commending Chief Earl Gleason for his professional assistance during the emergency.

The Selectmen received a petition from a number of residents who have asked that there be a forum on the topic of embrittlement of the reactor vessel at Yankee. Genuine concern was expressed about the lack of understanding of this issue and its potential safety implications. Believing that an opportunity to get questions addressed by the "experts" will help to allow for more informed judgements, the Selectmen plan to hold a forum at 7 PM, Tuesday, August 20 at the Community Hall. Representatives from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Yankee Atomic Electric Company, and the Union of Concerned Scientists will be invited to give very brief statements and then answer Heath residents' questions. An independent moderator will be asked to help keep the speeches short and the answers many. A brief explanation of how the plant operates will also be provided.

Two of the Selectmen have had recent tours of the Atomic plant. Both were impressed by the knowledgeable and competent manner of the personnel. On July 22, the Selectmen participated in a hearing conducted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission at Rowe School. The hearing focused on the embrittlement issue. A statement was made by the Selectmen informing the NRC of the questions and concerns raised by Heath citizens and the need to have these issues addressed in an understandable manner. The NRC was also informed of the August 21 forum in Heath.



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PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

PERCOLATION TESTS

Earl Gleason reports that there were a total of 9 perc tests conducted in June and to July 23rd, 5 repairs and 4 new. All passed.

BUILDING PERMITS

Gerald Wells, Avery Brook Road, above-ground pool/deck.

David Howland, Main Street, wood stove.

Kevin Gilbert, Jacobs Road, deck.

Paul Dabrody, Jacksonville Stage, two additions to residence.

Vivian Lee, South Road, deck.

Total: \$41,860

DEED TRANSFERS

Benedict F. and Annette T. Masaitis to Hector A. and Lillian L. Levreault of Chicopee, Mohawk Estates, Lot 21. \$2,000.

Leon Nathan to Leon Nathan and Simone Bloom Nathan of Brookline, Dell Road. 4 1/2 acres. No consideration.

Hector A. and Lillian L. Levreault to Francis W. and Alana L. Yelle of Holyoke, Mohawk Estates, Lots 21, 22 and 23. \$17,500.

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

Lawrence L. Nareau to Robert D. Barclay and Carole J. Barclay of Springfield, Mohawk Estates. Lot 7. \$2,500.

Joseph A. Boucher to Allen J. Boucher and Diana L. Boucher of North Adams, Mohawk Estates. Lot 18. \$700.

Allyn W. Coombs, Inc. to Heather E. page of New Canaan, CT. Sadoga Road, Lot 11. \$22,000.

TRANSFER STATION REPORT

by D. F. Howland

Effective Labor Day weekend the rules about the types of paper that are recycled to the Massachusetts Recycling Facility in Springfield will be more restrictive. According to Steve Ellis of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and manager of the program, the amount and types of non-recyclable paper have been on the increase. The increase adversely affects the quality of the paper produced, the amount of residue requiring disposal and the cost effectiveness of the program. Consequently the DEP is asking that the following only be separated out for recycling:

Newspapers (with inserted material)

Magazines/catalogs

Corrugated cardboard (clean)

Brown paper bags (grocery)

White letter paper

All other - egg cartons, phone books, gift wrappings, frozen food packaging, styrofoam, etc. - are to be put in with material for the trash compactor. Flyers with information will be distributed later in August to remind everyone of the changes. The recycling program has worked very well and the cooperation of the townspeople has been super. (There is no change in the glass and tin/aluminum can guidelines.)

TOWN MEETING

by David Gibbons

Fifty-four people attended the continuation of the annual town meeting on June 15.

Of the 105 accounts in the budget, 96 passed without question. The other nine items passed after some explanations were offered. The most serious item concerned the dumping fees because we are falling short of our contractual amounts. This continues to be a problem and is being worked on by the Selectmen.

At the end of the meeting a resolution commending the townspeople who had worked so hard on the Heath-Rowe regionalization project was approved overwhelmingly.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Early Gleason, Chief

The Department responded to five emergency calls during the period of June 1 through July 21, 1991. On June 14, three EMTs and two firefighters responded with Charlemont Ambulance to Mohawk Estates to assist a man who was having breathing problems. The next event was an alert at the Atomic Plant when four members activated the response center at the fire station from 2 AM until 5:30 PM on June 16. Seven firefighters assisted at a minor traffic accident at the corner of Bray Road and Colrain Stage Road on June 23. An electric fence caused a small grass fire on Burrington Road on July 17. Twelve firefighters responded to this 2:30 PM event. The next afternoon one EMT and three firefighters responded to aid Charlemont Ambulance with a lady who had fallen on Avery Brook Road. A non-emergency call for a tree on wires on Rowe Road was received on June 10. No action was taken as it was telephone wires and the tree was not impeding traffic.

Training included drills on June 20 and 27 and July 18. A joint drill with Charlemont was held on July 22. A Junior Firefighter's drill was held on June 13. The Fire Association met on June 6 and July 11.

Meetings included one with John Gelman on June 18 on updating the weather alert radio list and with Kurt Hanf on June 20 in relation to the school plans for emergencies. Other meetings attended were the June meeting of Massachusetts Fire Chiefs held in Westminster, MA, the Windham County Training Council in West Dummerston, VT, and the Deerfield Valley Fire Mutual Aid Director's meeting in Wardsboro, VT.

The Department recently received a number of dress uniforms for members from Burns Agency. We are extremely grateful for this donation.

Planning for the fair will take up most of our spare time as we have our annual brewing of the root beer scheduled for August first. See you at the barbecue, the wheel and at the first aid booth only for a visit.

Did you know that the Department has a softball team? The team has played most Wednesday nights in Greenfield and in Vernon, VT, with various stages of success.

Have a fire safe summer!



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"OPEN 7 DAYS"

TOM RABBIT APPOINTED POLICE CHIEF

by Todd Sumner

At their regular meeting on July 9, the Selectmen appointed Tom Rabbitt, of Jacksonville Stage Road, the town's new Chief of Police. No stranger to law enforcement, Mr. Rabbitt is an environmental police officer in the state's Fish and Game Department. He succeeds Carl Herzig, who has been Acting Chief since Guy Silvester's resignation last March.

Mr. Rabbitt plans to take his new duties "one step at a time." One of his first projects will be to review past logs and assess the kinds of demands made on the department and the levels and kinds of criminal activity found in Heath. He has high praise for Mr. Herzig's work as Acting Chief, and will continue to consult him as needed.

"I want to be sure that Heath has adequate police coverage, either through the town's department or through mutual aid," Mr. Rabbitt said. He went on to explain the difference between reactive and active law enforcement. "Reactive enforcement is when somebody calls the police and then you respond; active enforcement is trying to prevent a crime." Mr. Rabbitt hopes to be able to strike a balance between these two approaches, responding when called as well as patrolling. "Being observed is an effective deterrent," he noted.

Mr. Rabbitt welcomes suggestions and wants to establish a climate of openness between the department and townspeople. "I want to be very open, unless it's a major criminal investigation." He also plans to provide a more detailed report of the department's activities in the annual town report.

HEATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

by Bill Lattrell, Chairman

It is clear to everyone that the economic downturn has drastically cut building development. The Heath Conservation Commission has seen this first hand by a 75% reduction in applications over the last two years. In the last two months we have done three site visits, and are currently reviewing a Notice of Intent on a property on Route 8A in North Heath. This is considerably slower than in previous years, although the downturn is welcomed by the volunteers of the Conservation Commission.

There has been a noticeable increase in the number of wetland violations at Mohawk Beach Estates. Most of the property owners of this area are from out of town, and even out of state, and may not realize the importance or necessity of the Wetlands Protection Act and the Town Wetland By-Law. The Heath Conservation Commission has made strong efforts to communicate with the Mohawk Beach Estates Board of Directors in the past, and this has worked well. However, every couple of years the officers change and we have to begin the process anew. Through them we are able to communicate with the Mohawk Beach Estates constituency and impress upon them the great sensitivity of this area.

Once again, please remember if you are planning some site work or construction, and you're not sure if there are any wetlands nearby, contact the Heath Conservation Commission. Wetlands are highly technical and often cannot be identified by the layperson. Better to be safe than sorry. And you'll make our job a lot easier, too.

ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Don Dekker, Chairman

Just as things have quieted down since most people in town have paid their tax bills, we got the paperwork in the mail for setting the tax rate for this fiscal year. It is never ending.

The most questions answered in the Assessors' Office were about the increase in taxes. As we tried to explain, we did not increase valuation (unless it was new construction). The tax rate did go up as approved by the town at the town meetings. The Assessors' revalue the town every three (3) years, at which time valuations do change. The valuations are based on sales for the previous two years. The new valuation must fall between 10% of residence sales and 20% of vacant land sales. This is required by the State. We then devise a replacement cost system from our manual and apply it uniformly across the town.

The results should be near what the property is worth on the open market. When last we did this in 1989, we used sales from 1987 and 1988 which was the historic high in the area. Next we will use sales from 1990 and 1991. Unless there are many sales in the next six months, we have a problem. There are not many arms-length sales in Heath (Arms-length sales are those that reflect true market value - they exclude things such as in-family transfers for \$1). No clear trend is evidenced. Everyone believes that values are down, but as of now there is no clear evidence of this. The Board will be exploring ways of remedying this situation by working with our State advisor, using sales from other nearby towns, and whatever else is necessary. We will try our best to determine current value within the guidelines.

The Board has voted to participate in the new Accelerated State program. We will now be continuously viewing properties instead of doing it in total every three years. Each year we will see at least 200 parcels, so that every five year cycle the whole town will be covered. We intend to do this in September and would appreciate your cooperation. We will need to remeasure all buildings and inspect interiors for any changes since the last inspection. We will start at the beginning of the alphabet by roads, so those on Avery, Ben, Bray and the Colrain Roads be expecting us.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise specified)

<u>Selectmen:</u>	Tuesday 7:30 PM
<u>Accountant</u>	Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 1 PM
<u>Assessors:</u>	1st & 3rd Monday, 9:30 AM - 12 PM
<u>Town Clerk:</u>	Monday, 9 - 11:30 AM Wednesday, 8 - 11:30 AM (call for appointment, 4 - 7 PM, 337-4268)
<u>Town Treasurer:</u>	Tuesday, 5:30 - 7:30 PM Saturday, 9 - 10:30 AM
<u>Tax Collector:</u>	Monday, 9 - 11:30 AM Wednesday, 8 - 11:30 AM (call for appointment, 4 - 7 PM, 337-4268)
<u>Finance Committee:</u>	As posted
<u>Planning Board:</u>	2nd Monday of month 7 PM
<u>Conservation Commission:</u>	3rd Tuesday of month
<u>Heath School Committee:</u>	1st Tuesday of month 7:30 PM Community Hall
<u>Library Trustees:</u>	3rd Monday of month 7:30 PM
<u>Library:</u>	Monday 6-9 PM Wednesday 1-5 PM Saturday 9 AM - 1 PM
<u>Town Nurse:</u>	Wednesday 9 - 11 AM (call 337-4323 for appointment)
<u>Post Office:</u>	Monday through Saturday 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
<u>Transfer Station</u>	Monday 9 AM - 1 PM Wednesday, 1 - 5 PM Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM
<u>Town Telephones:</u>	Town Hall 337-4934 Community Hall 337-4847 Town Garage 337-4462 Fire, Police & Ambulance 1-772-2133

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MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

A daughter, Tranae Elizabeth, was born June 2 to Brenda and James Gallagher, of Turners Falls. Tranae is the granddaughter of Catherine and Bruce Cromack of Heath, Rose and Robert Kenney of Rowe and Tracy and James Gallagher of Adams. Great Grandparents are Hannah Burrington of Shelburne, Helen and Theodore Cromack of Sanford, FL, Evelyn Gallagher of North Adams and Lydia and Joseph Racicot of Charlemont.

Ellen Alice, a daughter, was born July 14 to Michael and Jana Purington of Cambridge, Me. Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gallup of Heath, and Mrs. and Mrs. Walter Purington of Colrain. Great grandparents are Agnes Purington of Colrain and Mr. and Mrs. C. Stanton Gallup of Plainville, CT.

Alvin and Maude White of Oneida, NY, are parents to a new son, Samuel Harris, born July 21. He is the grandson of Katherine and George Harris of Brooklyn, NY and Heath.

Quintina Fournier, daughter of Philip and Elizabeth Fournier of Jacksonville, VT was married May 25 to Chris Reynolds, son of Dale and Helen Reynolds of Whitingham, VT. She is the granddaughter of Ruth Fournier and great granddaughter of Rudolph Fournier, both of Heath. The newlyweds are making their home on Route 112 in Jacksonville.

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCED

by Judyth Crystal

There has been much local, regional, and national coverage regarding the safety of the Yankee Atomic Rowe nuclear power facility. A group of concerned Heath residents and the Heath Selectmen are co-sponsoring a series of public educational sessions for Heath residents. The first evening session is tentatively planned for Tuesday, August 20 at 7 PM at the Heath Community Hall and will address the issue of embrittlement of the pressure vessel. The Regional Administrator of the NRC is being invited as well as representatives from Yankee Rowe, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and the New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution. A flyer will be forthcoming in the mail with confirmed details. There will also be postings at the Town Hall and Peters Store.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AUGUST EVENTS

- 10 Summer Reading program ends
Heath Public Library
- Historical Society Annual Meeting - Potluck supper
6:30 PM, Community Hall
Business Meeting, 7:30 PM,
Community Hall, Guest Speaker,
8 PM, Community Hall
- 15 Heath Fair Exhibit Hall entries due
4 - 8 PM
- 16-18 Heath Fair
- 17 Reception for opening of "The Heath Exhibit - works on paper by Fred Burrington"
Heath Union Church, 7 to 9 PM
- 18-19 "The Heath Exhibit"
Heath Union Church
10 AM to 4 PM
- 20 Public Hearing on Yankee Rowe Power Plant, 7 PM, Community Hall
- 28 Cholesterol Screening
Babcock Hall, Charlemont
9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 2 End of Metal Waste Materials pick-up at Transfer Station
- 4 School begins
- 21 Community Park Dedication ceremony
- Paper Recycling rules change

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