

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 3 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1995

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER 50¢

HEATH FAIR NEWS

by Mike Peters

Now that the Heath Fair is less than a month away we can look forward to fun for all once again. The only unfortunate thing is that once the Fair is gone, the summer is gone. But we won't think about that quite yet. Fair dates for this year are August 18, 19, and 20.

We are planning the usual schedule of events with a few "extras" that we try to accomplish every year. I will let you know that we have a fireworks show that contains 1400 shots with a 900 shot finale, a huge increase over last year. Everyone will have to come to the Fair to see our other special exhibits.

There is finally some good news to share with all of the dedicated fair volunteers from the (believe it or not) State Dept. of Agriculture, Division of Fairs. You better sit down for this one. We recently received a check in the amount of four thousand dollars towards 1994 Premiums that we paid out. This money represents 50% of all cash premiums paid to exhibitors. They also promise more money to come for this year. This is fabulous news to all of us. In addition to this we have had a significant increase in the money we receive from the Wells Trust Fund to offset even more of the Premiums.

There have been many workbees going on as usual, and the Fairgrounds are shaping up nicely. We have planted ten rock maple trees and look forward to more. Anyone that is willing to plant a tree in memory of someone is invited and encouraged to approach us with offers. We feel the Fairgrounds have been totally rebuilt and it is finally time to start with the tree planting as we had hoped for. We need hardwood trees only for this project, the taller the better.

After Fair time we are looking forward to adding a couple more buildings of agricultural value to the Fair. Keep your eyes open when passing by the Fairgrounds this Fall !!!!!

FROM ALL OF US TO ALL OF YOU
ENJOY THE HEATH FAIR 1995

CAROL AND ART VISIT BRITISH COLUMBIA

Fighting boredom on the vacation trip to the Canadian Rockies with son Olin and cousin Peder, Carol Sartz and Art Schwenger consider the muggy weather in Heath. The foursome spent 6 days hiking and fishing at Mt. Assiniboine, B.C. Under the ice field on a shoulder of the mountain this day was spent searching for fossilized trilobites in the shale.



CAROL SARTZ AND ART SCHWENGER
WITH THOUGHTS OF HOME
ON MT. ASSINIBOINE, B.C.
(Family Photo)

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

The Eta Iota Chapter at the University of New Hampshire, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, is pleased to announce that Catherine Tallen, RN, BSN, has been inducted into Eta Iota Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Sigma Theta Tau International is a worldwide network of nurse leaders linked together through knowledge, scholarship, research, and technology to improve the health of the world's people. The Society was founded in 1922 by six nursing students at the University of Indiana to recognize, promote and reward nursing excellence. It is now one of the largest and most prestigious professional nursing organizations in the world with a membership of over 200,000 in 400 chapters affiliated with university schools of nursing. Membership is conferred only on nursing students in baccalaureate or graduate programs who demonstrate excellence in nursing or qualified bachelors, masters or doctoral graduates who demonstrate exceptional achievement in the nursing profession.

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

Managing Editor	Susan Silvester
Gen. Ed. & Layout	Pegge Howland
Staff Reporters	Edith Royer
	Laurie Wheeler
Columnists	Elsa Bakalar
	Michael D. Coe
	Bill Lattrell
	Carroll Stowe
	Jesse Seaver
	Laurie Wheeler
Advertising	Deborah Phillips
Circ. & Business	Deborah Phillips
Typography	Arlene Markert

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Send all correspondence to: Box 54, Heath, MA 01346-0054

MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

by Susan Silvester

On Sunday afternoon, the 30th of July, an elegant concert was held in the lovely gardens of Mike and Elsa Bakalar on Hosmer Road in Heath. The musical presentation was a benefit for the Valley Community Music School with students, faculty and friends of the school performing. Vans carried the audience from the Heath Fairgrounds down Hosmer Road to the Bakalar residence where cucumber and watercress sandwiches, iced tea and lemonade were served in grand style beneath the canopy of a green and white tent. Guests strolled through the gardens as they listened to the sounds of music drifting across the countryside.

The Benefit Committee consisted of Shirley Stookey, Helen Spencer, Mary Kay Hoffman and Sylvia Phippen. The Valley Community Music School was founded in 1990 through the efforts of five local organizations. Its mission is to provide quality music instruction to all interested persons regardless of age, ability, income level or ethnic origin.

MARY LYON EDUCATION FUND NEWS

by Susan Silvester

The annual summer tennis lessons have just ended for the fourth consecutive year, and Program Director Judy McWilliams has once again provided an excellent series of educational lessons for local children of all ages. Tennis instructors this summer were Jodi Tanguay and Lisa Goodell.

The other summer program is the annual Children's Literature Festival held at the Buckland Shelburne Regional Elementary School August 7-11 with approximately 50 children grades K-6 participating. This program is co-sponsored by the area cultural councils in the towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Rowe and Plainfield.

ALAN'S ALMANAC

by Alan Nichols

Observer for Mass. Division of Water Resources

	'95	'94	Ave. 67-90
April	2.48	3.59	4.30
May	3.44	4.53	5.06
June	2.61	4.29	5.07
July	2.68*	3.03	4.21

*as of July 25

On June 25th a thunderstorm followed by a cold front came through from the northeast in violation of the Natural Order of Things (N.O.O.T.). These are indeed peculiar times.



Green Thoughts

by

ELSA BAKALAR

"But *where*, exactly, *is* Heath?

I'm used to hearing this when people telephone about lectures or visits to the garden. For a start, I tell them it's in Massachusetts. The next question is how far are we from Boston. My usual reply is "Opposite end of the state" or "Pretty far - we're in the top left hand corner of Massachusetts."

So, often, the next question is "But what are you on the way to?" and that makes me think. Because to me the wonderful thing about Heath is that it's not "on the way" to anywhere -- it is, indeed, the destination itself.

This summer has seen a fair number of visitors to the garden, all of whom are enchanted by the long, climbing drive from the valley and the sense, on arrival, of being on top of the world. My garden, which -- despite early drought followed by storms, torrential rain and damaging winds -- has borne up bravely, still, in late July, offers a rich array of flowers. It seems to offer a fair variety of creatures, too, some of which are trying my patience sorely. It's hard to think good thoughts about chipmunks this year, after they've eaten a hundred or more lily bulbs and several dozen dahlias. The playing field is getting a little crowded: Have you ever seen two chipmunks *collide* as they dash across a grass path from one flower bed to another? I have. And it suggests (to me) that there are too many of them for their own good.

Some surprises, though, come in big packages -- the biggest of all came the other day. I was talking to a dozen or so workshop students, standing at the edge of the garden nearest the driveway when a moose wandered (that's the word for it -- unconcerned wandering) up the driveway not 20 feet from where we stood.

"Well," said one student who has been here several times over the years, "that's Heath for you -- two years ago, it was my first bear -- this is certainly my first moose." It's going to be hard to top that.

Gardening has had to be a spectator sport for me for much of the summer, due to a back injury, but it has given me more time for looking and thinking.

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Lovely as a garden is in solitude, I think it has a special charm when it has people in it. Well over a hundred people of all ages were here for a "Music in the Garden" benefit on the one day of relief from humidity and thunderstorms. Young musicians played, the visitors strolled and enjoyed afternoon tea, and there was a remarkable sense of peace and happiness. I saw the garden in a different way, as if I, too, were visiting. One bemused stroller (someone from Greenfield) said: "I've always wondered what Heath was like but I've never taken that road off the Trail before." I wished I could have produced a moose for her.

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HEATH PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Suzanne Crawford

Summertime greetings! This is a quieter time of year for the Heath Preschool. The toys and materials are all packed away, and the children play at home rather than at the Community Hall. However, many preparations go on behind the scenes in the summer to help us prepare for the Heath Fair and for the next school year.

The Heath Fair is the biggest fund raiser of the year for the preschool. The Advisory Council has been busy arranging for the raffle of children's items that will take place at the fair, as well as making plans for the dunking booth, the parade float and refreshments to sell. There will be a wonderful selection of raffle items (many of them handmade by local artisans and crafts people) as follows: a wooden toy chest, leather accessories, hand blown glass marbles, a one-night stay at a local Bed & Breakfast, a family wagon ride with Carroll Stowe, a child's Adirondack chair, a paper mache' lion, a decorative flag, a mother/daughter jacket set, silver earrings, a wooden toy truck, a Jean Dewey folk art original, a decorative quilling item, and 4 gift bags with an assortment of toys for girls and boys of different ages. Our thanks to the generous friends of the preschool who are contributing prizes and also to the members of the Advisory Council who have been working to make the arrangements. The raffle items will be on display in Shelburne Falls in the Franklin-Ware window for several weeks before the fair. Tickets cost \$1 and are available in advance from Deborah Phillips (337-8513) and Becky Bradley (339-0107). Tickets will also be sold at the fair and the drawing will be held there on Sunday, August 20. It's a fine opportunity to take a chance at winning some great gifts while supporting the preschool. The dunking booth offers an opportunity to splash and/or be splashed. Come and join the fun! Call David Adie (337-8564) if you'd like to be included in our line-up of illustrious dunkcees.

Many of the preschool's funding arrangements are finalized during the summer. Our sincere thanks go to the voters of both Heath and Rowe for their continued support of the preschool. We anticipate notification of level funding for the state Department of Education grant in late August.

We have been fortunate to have assistance from Michelle Howe for several special projects over the summer. She has stained the outdoor playhouse and repainted our "fleet" of Tonka trucks. She has also been a great help in making signs for the fair and preparing for the parade float. We are grateful for her contributions.

One feature of the state education reform plan requires all teachers to take classes and/or attend workshops to maintain their certification. This spring

and summer the school district has offered a number of programs. I have been pleased for the opportunity to continue to develop my skills, and look forward to incorporating some of these new ideas into the program.

I have been working on the pre-registration for the 1995-96 school year. It looks like we have a very large group of 3 and 4 year olds this year, and I expect us to be full next year. I have already heard from most families with preschoolers that I know. If, however, you have or know of a child who will be either 3 or 4 by this August 31 who has not yet registered, please contact me (339-4265). We will give priority to 4 year olds and to children with identified special needs. I will contact families again in late August with further details. We are looking forward to a great year ahead!



FACE PAINTING
(Photo by Suzanne Crawford)



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A PRINCIPAL FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

by Deborah Phillips

Now that the new school building is underway, one of the most important and crucial decisions will be made in the next few months -- the hiring of a principal! Now is the time to speak up and make your viewpoints heard regarding the qualities you most desire in a principal. Under Massachusetts Education Reform, one of the most important decisions the principal makes is who to hire as teachers. Together, they will then determine the educational philosophy of the school and its curriculum. Al Cormier, Superintendent of Schools, will be making the final decision on who to hire as principal; and he is very open and receptive in hearing what the needs and desires are of the Heath residents. This includes everyone, not just parents, but the community at large. He hopes to advertise for a principal by October 5 and have one on board by January 1.

An open and informal advisory committee has formed consisting of parents, concerned citizens and representatives from Mohawk Regional School District, including Mr. Cormier. We are encouraging all community members to get involved in this very important decision. There will be many informal meetings during the next 2 months to discuss everyone's concerns and opinions and hopefully formulate a general consensus on the qualities we most want to see in our new principal.

Please check the *West County News*, Town Hall or Peter's Store for scheduled meeting times, or call Veronica Smead at 337-5389 or Sue Lively at 337-4061, if you cannot make it but would like to have your opinions heard and noted. At the July 25 meeting discussion about school building atmosphere and characteristics of a good principal was begun. The next meeting will be held at 7 PM on August 8 at the Community Hall.

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ROWE ELEMENTARY PARENT TEACHER PARTNERSHIP

It's hard to believe it is already time to start thinking of the new school year, but ...

As usual the PTP is looking forward to an exciting new year! It also welcomes Deborah Lively of Rowe as co-chair along with Mary Vilbon of Heath. The Parent Teacher Partnership is a support system which consists of parents, teachers, and community members. As one, they sponsor enrichments and school spirit activities to build a strong "family" like atmosphere for the children.

Because this is a year knowing there are many changes in the future, it is so important for everyone to pull together for the children and make this a positive, fulfilling year for each and every child.

The PTP is a source of communication and feedback between staff and parents and has a monthly meeting held the first Monday of every month at 6:30 at the school; as always child care is provided.

Let's make it a great year together!

MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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JUNE 1, 1995

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Student Council's certificate of participation - Jim Cerone, President, Adam Almeida.

Student Council's certificate of appreciation - Jim Cerone, President, Adam Almeida

Male Athlete - Jim Cerone

Bobby Wells Award - Andrew Shattuck

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OF HERBS AND HEIRLOOMS

by Laurie Wheeler

Summer in all its lushness has erupted. During this season of fruitfulness I have noticed too a number of my friends and family who are the embodiment of growth and summer bounty. Their harvest? A next generation, of us!

There are many herbs that work especially well for women in all stages of womanhood. I here avoid herbs with stronger actions, and mention only those which are of a tonic nature (ones which promote general good health) especially for pregnant women. I certainly recommend that you work with a midwife or doctor you trust before deciding on your path of well-being.

The tradition in which I have primarily studied is the Wise Woman Tradition, which is thousands of years old. This tradition allows the body to follow its natural healing processes, aided by herbal and homeopathic treatments if necessary. If a problem is of a life-threatening nature other actions may be required.

Herbal tonics have long been used safely by Wise Women healers, as nourishment and toners for the body. The following are but a few and are taken on a regular basis before, during, and after pregnancy. Red Raspberry (*Rubus*) leaves brewed as a tea or infusion, is an excellent toner, promotes fertility, eases morning sickness, helps prevent miscarriage, and decreases pain during delivery. The tea, frozen into ice cubes and chipped, may be sucked on during labor. Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), high in calcium and Vitamin K, makes a nourishing herbal tea. (Boiling takes the sting away.) It strengthens the kidneys, eases leg cramps and muscle spasms, and helps decrease pain during birth. Peppermint or spearmint (*mentha*) increase energy and are good for easing morning sickness when drunk as a tea first thing in

the day. Ginger root (*Zingiber officinale*) tea, by the tablespoonful, is helpful in easing morning sickness. Parsley may be eaten or drunk as a tea and is good as an extra source of calcium, while Oatstraw helps with varicosities by strengthening the capillaries.

As always, a balanced diet is necessary; supplemental wild greens, amaranth, shepherd's purse, dandelion, are suggested as additional sources of vitamins and minerals.

There are many more herbs and alternative ways of handling a pregnancy, ways which treat the body gently, and may be done in conjunction with modern medical practices. For further study on women's herbs read Susun Weed's Wise Woman Herbal for the Childbearing Year, and Hygieia A Woman's Herbal by Jeannine Parvati. The Wise Woman Herbal was written during the late 1980s and is based on the Wise Woman Tradition of healing; Hygieia is a wild, wonderful, wise book from the 1970s.

These books will take you from prior to your pregnancy, through it, and into the after; for caring for your child and yourself is of the utmost importance. The child, as a friend who just had her baby was told, is a seedling which will grow into a strong oak, and you, its guardian and nurturer. The herbal practices that made you well during pregnancy will continue to be beneficial to both you and your child after the birth.

HEATH LADIES AID

by Edith Royer

We had a very successful sale at the fairgrounds on Saturday, July 29. We made about \$335. I would like to thank everyone who helped in any way. We will be meeting again on September 21.

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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**

A NEW EXPERIENCE

Every day that Dave Freeman lives he works to improve a situation. With the increasing size of his herd of cattle he naturally needs more feed stored for winter. His stored winter feed is round baled silage wrapped with plastic film. David has increased the harvest of this type of feed on most of the fields he uses.

One field at Jim Coursey's Manse has been most unproductive. So between Dave and Jim it was decided to plow and reseed this area. David asked if I would care to do this tillage operation. Having always to plan towards covering our increased tax burden I was pleased to be considered. Back in late winter I had taken note of a two furrow trailer plow unused for a long time. I made contact with the owner and a price agreeable to both was set. At that time I had no use for this unit but always had felt I could at some point make a worthwhile purchase of it. I had a tremendous feeling to introduce my old H Farmall to this new purchase. The mold boards were unbelievable rusty and I was sure many furrows would be plowed before they could be made to shine. About three passes each way of this first field and those mold boards began to clean nicely. Now they gleam in the sunlight.

I have never plowed much with a one-way trailer plow so my knowledge of its adjustment and control was most limited. With David's many acres of plowing expertise it was adjusted to do a good job. This plow is lowered to the ground by a trip rope and lifted the same way. It is a good working device but to encounter rocks that don't move is a bit difficult. You have to back away from the obstruction and pull

the rope and hope elevation can be gained to get over the offending object. The worst of the plowing has been accomplished and the other part of the field plows better.

As I've done this plow job I've felt how cheated I am to not have the talent to have been able to do this plow job with a three horse hitch. To have had a good three horse team or a span of three mules that worked well together would have produced a much better plow job. I will always envy any of such a talent. But I have learned to plow with this unit and am pleased to have possession of such a worthwhile set of equipment.

This old Farmall that has done so much for so many just plays with this two bottom plow. There's a great deal of pleasure to be gained to sit in the seat and listen to the old iron do its work. Again those who have not had the pleasure of having operated one of these legends has truly been cheated.

At this point in time the plowing has been finished and some stone picked. A new stone boat will be used to harvest the larger stone and a disk harrow will hopefully smooth the rough spots and make it ready to put the grass seed in place. Time, manure and commercial fertilizer should make this a good yielding plot of ground. As we age it's interesting what tasks are presented to us.



PLOWING AT JIM COURSEY'S
(Photo by Christine O'Brien)

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by **BILL LATTRELL**

EVOLUTION OF A YOUNG MIND

There are moments in our lives when a single event or observation can make a lifelong impression. I'm not referring to those that serve as rites of passage such as the death of a parent or loved one. I am referring to simple episodes that seem to suddenly clarify the meaning of life or solve a perplexing problem over which we have troubled for an extended period. Such a moment happened to me when I was nine years old.

February had been typically cold. In the early mornings I enjoyed looking out my east facing bedroom window watching the sun melt the frost off of the storm windows. I can remember faint shadows on the opposing wall as shifting patterns of light broadened as the frost retreated towards the edge of the window. One cold morning I pulled a desk chair up close to the window. As I had done many mornings while eating a bowl of hot cereal, I found some comfort in watching the frost melt to the window pane's edge. On a different scale, the melting frost resembled the retreat of the glaciers during a far earlier and colder time.

As the frost melted gravity would carry it to the wooden sash where eventually it would escape through a drip hole. While following the path of the water down the window pane and onto the sash, I noticed some of the water passing by some dead flies. And then it happened.

A fly, seemingly dead, started to move. I first saw it lift a leg very slowly. It stopped and remained still for a while. It started to move again, still very slowly, this time moving its transparent wings. I couldn't muster up enough wing speed for lift off, and instead just flipped over onto its back. With time, and as the temperature in this aquarium rendition increased, the fly adjusted to full mobility.

It was as if I had seen the dead become the living. I was awed by the experience. Seeing a frozen creature come to life was beyond my wildest dreams. I knew of cold blooded creatures, in fact I had just studied the cold blooded dinosaur in fourth grade. I tried to picture a frozen dinosaur awaking from a long frosty sleep.

That summer I spent great amounts of time catching flies and putting them in the deep freezer. My mother would become quite upset at the site of the mason jar of frozen house and deer flies next to the frozen London broil. After freezing the flies I would thaw them out by pulling them from the freezer and placing the jar in the hot sun. They

would defrost rather quickly in July, and generally I would release them to let them go about their business. I have to admit that I had far better luck defrosting house flies that I did defrosting deer flies. The deer flies, for some reason unknown to me, often perished during this experience.

At that time, I remembered learning from a book that I had dusted off in the library that the first mammals were very small, perhaps mouse size. I also remembered seeing the pictures of the first horses in the Collier's Encyclopedia that sat on our bookshelves at home, seldom used. The horses were about cat size. At that time, these miniature horses conjured up thoughts of small mice with cowboy hats riding them. Too many Saturday morning cartoons I suspect.

Years later I learned that the first mammals were tiny because they were warm blooded. Size was part of the overall creature's efficiency. Small bodies require lesser amounts of energy. Loren Eiseley, the great paleo-historian, attributes the evolution of flowering plants to the success of warm blooded creatures. The ability of flowering plants to produce high nutrient seeds, and their ability to spread quickly around the countryside created circumstances that were very favorable to these new products of evolution - the mammal.

Evolution is a mysterious series of events. One of its key ingredients is time. Selective adaptation will adjust almost any living creature to an extreme set of circumstances given enough time. And yet both the fly, and the human still exist in the 20th century millions and millions of years since the first warm blooded animals mingled with cold blooded creatures.

To a nine year old this is bewildering. I couldn't imagine how it was that one type of animal could be so different from another. I felt uncomfortable just because the fly was different. It was as if I were willing to deny the fly's ability to wake up from the frosty depths of cold sleep just so I didn't have to wrestle with a notion so foreign to me. And that's when it hit me. This feeling of denial was attributable to the fact of my lack of knowledge and understanding. I felt more comfortable with the familiar than with the unfamiliar. The realization was like having a huge rock lifted off of my shoulders. So many times during my short life I had already experienced this. The first time I saw a Black person. The first time I was alone at home. The first time I let my best friend know a deep, dark secret.

And now I realize that seeing the thawing of that house fly somehow led to the beginning of a long, long process: the thawing of the human mind.

A.L. AVERY & SON

~~~~~

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## HEATH UNION CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Roger Peace

After another very delightful and informative potluck dinner and evening, I either have to eat less or walk more. Every potluck everyone always brings the best tasting food - and then there is the great fellowship. We will be having more, so watch the paper or look for the ads at Peters or the Town Hall. Looking back at July 23, it was so kind of Eric Sumner to show slides and tell of his trip to Mexico. He did a great job and I have heard much praise about the evening. Thanks Eric!

August brings many fond memories of the Heath Fair. I look forward to the service at the fairgrounds, checking the hall for the crafts, food and displays. So much work is put into the fair, and it is always a very enjoyable time. So - hope to see you there, and do join us for church services under the big tent.

The youth have not been very busy through the summer due to work schedules and vacations. We hope to get back to puppets in September. It has been, and will continue to be a true joy to work with these fine young people. They have given of their time and talents for many; and we all enjoy and appreciate all of them.

Don't forget to look for the beginning of Sunday School. We plan to begin again September 10, 1995. The church and myself would like to thank the teacher for a fine job done over the past year. This summer the adults are doing a Bible study on the book of Daniel. You are welcome to join us at 9 AM each Sunday morning as we study this great man of great faith.

Monday night continues to be our Bible Study and Prayer Time. We have been meeting for over a year steady, so do join with us at this rewarding and important time.

August and September also bring plans for the church's annual meeting the first of October. New plans are being worked on, reports will be finalized, a budget needs to be established, positions will need to be filled, and after many other things are completed - we can all look forward to another church year.

In closing I would like to thank those who had to resign recently. We appreciate your labor of love, dedication and willingness to be part of the Heath Union Church. You will be missed.

Have a great summer and may God keep you in His care.

### Heath Brook Studios Glass and Baskets

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## HEATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, August 13, 1995

### Events

4-5 PM Old Town House open in Heath Center  
5 PM Solomon Temple Barn open at Fairgrounds  
with a new display of tools  
5:30 PM Pot Luck Supper at Fairgrounds  
6:30 PM Business Meeting in the Barn Museum  
7 PM Illustrated talk by Elsa Bakalar  
"A Garden of One's Own: A Summer Garden in  
Heath"  
ALL ARE WELCOME!

## HEATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

by Pegge Howland

Please note that the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 13th this year in order to avoid a conflict with the Mohawk Trail Concerts. The speaker will be our own Elsa Bakalar who has just finished a national tour to promote sales of her new book "A Garden of One's Own". She will expand on that theme to include "A Summer Garden in Heath" for our program. Elsa's talk will begin at 7 PM in the Solomon Temple Barn Museum at the Heath fairgrounds. Copies of her book will be available.

Other Annual Meeting events at the Barn include a Pot Luck Supper at 5:30 PM and a business meeting at 6:30 PM. We have a new display of farm tools in the Barn that make a nice exhibit which we think you'll like to see. In addition, the Old Town House in Heath Center will be open for viewing between 4 and 5 PM.

I am happy to announce that Ed Calver's book "Heath, Massachusetts: A History and Guidebook" has been reprinted, and the index by Amy Barry has been bound right in with it which should make the guide a lot more convenient to use. This book along with our other publications will be sold in the Solomon Temple Barn Museum during the Heath Fair just as we did last year. Museum hours during the fair are: Friday, August 18, 5-8 PM; Saturday, August 19, 10 AM to 8 PM; and Sunday, August 20, 10 AM to 4 PM. You'll notice that we have extended the hours into the evening for your convenience. We hope you'll all take advantage of this opportunity to visit the Heath Historical Society exhibits.



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Charlemont, Mass.  
Phone: 339-4472



## SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by D. F. Howland

The emergency caused by the freakish micro-storm on Saturday morning, July 15 was handled ably by Civil Defense Director Earl Gleason with the support of Jack Cable, Highway Superintendent and Tom Rabbitt, Chief of Police. Employees and volunteer fire department personnel did an outstanding job of clearing trees and cordoning off electric wires to preserve public safety. Even the new heavy duty generator was pressed into service for the first time. Fortunately no one was hurt and there were few calls for help. We know neighbors helped neighbors, an indication of the spirit of Heath's residents. By Sunday night all was under control including the restoration of electric power. Well done.

The Selectmen and the Tax Fairness Committee continue to make efforts to stave off financial hardship. Harvey Carter, Leighton McCutcheon, Catherine Heyl and Dave Howland journeyed to Boston on Wednesday, July 12 to meet with Nicholas Fischer, Associate Commissioner of the Department of Education, Steve Kulik, State Representative who is pinch hitting for us in the absence of Carmen Buell, Pat Kirk of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and Kelly Rose of Senator Jane Swift's office. We outlined Heath's situation ... the highest residential tax rate in the State, a per capita income near the bottom in the State, falling real estate values, the doubling of our population over the last ten years and the possibility of sacrificing other town services because of school costs should we exceed the \$25 tax threshold imposed by Proposition 2 1/2. Documentation was presented. Mr. Fischer explained a number of regulatory problems that prevented the State from increasing Heath's (1) reimbursement of school construction costs and (2) funds for school operating costs. After a particularly and rather annoying bureaucratic comment on what Heath could or should do about those matters Leighton pointedly remarked "that dog won't hunt" and proceeded to suggest strongly what the State's obligations were to Heath in these matters. That seemed to alter attitudes somewhat and the DOE will be doing some review of Heath's data to see what can be done. Kelly Rose was successful in getting support for special legislation to obtain some money for FY96 from emergency funds the State Legislature has available for DOE problems. However, the Town of Heath has to qualify for a spending waiver through the Department of Revenue, a process we have begun. It is not easy and not definite, but be assured that persistent, cooperative efforts will continue in this regard.

On the local front John Mooney has been engaged to paint and touch up the Community Hall and Sawyer Hall this summer. Nearly all appointments to

the Town's many committees have been made. The Committee on Commercial Development was disbanded because of the resurgence of the Enterprise Council, a private business association and the formation of an eleven town consortium sponsored by the Shelburne Falls Business Association.

Robert Viarengo of Plover Hill was appointed the Town's representative to the consortium. New signs for our roads are in the process of being made by Ron Corey. We believe they will be very attractive. They are made of wood and will be mounted on 4 x 4 wooden posts.

The Board of Selectmen met with the Planning Board to discuss a comprehensive road discontinuance program. The Planning Board has done a lot of work and will be presenting information at hearings. We expect this matter to get considerable attention over the next several months.

Joyce Karpinski, Town Coordinator, has completed two grants. One is for \$106,000 for the improvement of Jacobs Road into the new school site. The source is a special Public Works Economic Development Program with the State Highway Department. Jack Cable provided technical support. The other grant is for \$147,000 to make the Community Hall and Sawyer Hall handicap accessible. The money comes from the Economic Community Development Corporation. Brian DeVriese and Bruce Cromack assisted with this application. Both requests were done very professionally. We hope for the best.

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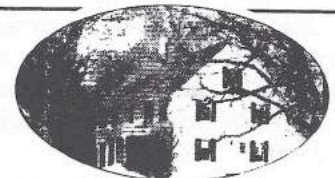
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## FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Earl Gleason, Chief

The Department responded to four emergency calls during the last two months. The first was on June first when two EMTs aided Charlemont ambulance with a transport of a Number Nine Road resident to the hospital. The next call was on July 14 when three EMTs and three firefighters along with Charlemont ambulance assisted and transported a man who was having trouble breathing. The next morning shortly after the big windstorm, several firefighters and EMTs responded to the station and in coordination with the road crew started the process of getting things to normal. In the morning, survey crews were sent out to assess the damage, report back where clean up of downed trees and limbs could begin and another list of where trees were into power lines. Crews were dispatched to begin blocking of roads that were impassable or dangerous conditions because of wires. Two or three individuals or teams came and offered to start cutting debris out of the roads. They were informed that in no case were they to cut any debris connected with wires but were assigned to various roads. Midmorning we were dispatched to the report of downed wires on Rowe Road. Brush one and one firefighter responded to this incident and he told the reporting party to treat them as live wires and we had the same conditions all over town. Also about this time, we were in contact with the Rowe and Charlemont fire stations as to road conditions in their towns. As the heaviest damage was in the northern parts of town all of our roads to Charlemont were open although Route 8A had a short section in Charlemont that was limited to one lane because of wires down. The damage had shut down roads in Rowe so that the only way the northern part could leave was through Heath. Firefighter Sue Croteau and EMT Jenn Giandalone were much appreciated as they made a couple of trips to Peters Store to get supplies to provide lunch for the firefighters and the road crew. Several times during the day one firefighter was assigned to the small generator to provide electricity to people who came to the station or were called to their residences for the life support machines that they needed periodically.

By midafternoon, all roads that did not have trees into wires had been believed to be cleaned up and our attention was diverted to providing electricity to the fire station. The large generator obtained as surplus from the government was hauled out and with the assistance of Bob Delisle was connected to the fire department to provide lights and power for the various radios. About dusk after consulting with the power company representatives who had assured us that the lines were dead and would not be activated until he had contacted us again, the wires

and debris from West Main Street and North 8A was removed so as to open these two roads. At the same time three EMTs and two firefighters responded along with Charlemont ambulance to Navaho Lane to transport a man who was having difficult breathing. The fire station remained open and manned until midnight on Saturday. Sunday morning saw three or four firefighters and EMTs stay at the station to coordinate supplying generators to various people who might need them. In early morning a water buffalo was requested from the National Guard to supply a water supply but a majority of the power was restored to town before it could be sent from Greenfield. It was cancelled as we could now get water locally. The fire station remained open until about 9:30 PM Sunday when the last generator was returned. Bob Tanner spent most of Sunday after noontime on this detail. Although we never toned out for firefighters to respond to the station (except for the down wires on Rowe Road and the ambulance run on Navaho Lane), twelve firefighters and EMTs were at the scene most of Saturday and four or five returned on Sunday.

Other activities included one Association meeting, one EMS Association meeting, two drills, two inspections and three out of town meetings.

### Richard A. Sumner

Journeyman Electrician

Mass. License #E22622 • Vermont License #J1245

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## ASSESSOR'S REPORT

by Don Dekker

Every third year the State requires the Assessors to revalue all properties. This is the third year, and we are currently involved in this process. By fall we should have new values in place. It appears that values have gone down slightly, pushing up the tax rate a bit. Remember that when values go down and tax rates go up, actual taxes stay about the same. (Provided the town does not raise appropriations.)

The process of establishing new values is very simple, and we assessors have very little choice in the matter. The State requires us to base values on sales for the preceding two years. All properties with dwellings must be within 10% of these sales. Vacant land parcels must be within 20% of the sales.

We hire a consultant to help us in this process. The first thing we do is establish a land schedule - i.e.: (Based on sales) what improved (well, septic etc.) building sites are selling for; unimproved vacant sites and residual land (excess rear land). Once this land schedule is in place we apply it to all parcels in the same way. It cannot be altered in any way, except for failed perk test or wetlands.

The value of houses and out buildings is established from a standard source for replacement costs. We will go from Marshall and Swift to the State CAMA program. We follow this program religiously and do not have much choice in final costs of buildings. By using this replacement cost program and the land schedule, true relative values are established. Therefore values of large houses and small houses; small building sites and large land holdings are fairly equated. These values should be near the 100% of value as required by the State.

There are three main ways to determine value of property. They are assessing, appraising and the sale itself. Assessors use the method described previously. Appraisers use replacement costs, land schedules, and sales, but also sales of similar properties in nearby towns. They can get a more accurate value of a property, but the only true way to establish value is when a property sells freely by a willing seller and bought by a willing buyer with no problem involved (ie: need to sell fast, relative involved, etc.)

Assessors like to get near this sale price, but more important to us in that the methodology involved is applied in the same way for all parcels. Then, if properties are overvalued, all are overvalued, and the reverse is true - all undervalued. Keep this in mind when you receive word of the new value of your property this fall.

DON'T MISS THE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 1995

## HEATH ENTERPRISE COUNCIL

by Laurie Wheeler

The Heath Business Association has decided upon the name of The Heath Enterprise Council. Meetings have been occurring on a regular basis. The three original projects, Business Directory, Calendar of Events and Business Procedures List, are progressing.

Membership dues, of \$20, are now being accepted. Checks may be made out to The Heath Enterprise Council, and mailed to Alicia Tripp at P.O. Box 27, Heath, MA 01346.

There will be an informational and promotional booth at the upcoming Heath Fair. If you are interested in joining The Heath Enterprise Council, or just would like more information about it, please stop by the booth at the Fair. If you have already paid your membership dues and have some time to volunteer at the fair please contact Wanda Mooney.

Watch the *West County News* for the next meeting date.

## TRANSFER STATION PERMITS

Permits for the Heath Transfer Station are now available and can be picked-up at the Heath Post Office Monday through Saturday from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM. There is a \$25 fee for a Transfer Station sticker. Additional stickers can be purchased for \$1.

## HEATH BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Members of the Heath Enterprise Council

BRIAN'S CARPENTRY, building/remodeling, 337-4347

CABLE'S BURNT HILL BLUEBERRIES, 337-4454

HEATH BROOK STUDIO, glass and baskets, 337-5736

MARY AND HARVEY CARTER, 337-5511

ALVIN HILLMAN, automotive repair, 337-5576

JOHN MOONEY, custom remodeling, 337-8344

WANDA MOONEY, realtor, 337-8344

TRIPP'S BLUEBERRIES, Taylor Brook Rd., 337-4964

DAVID FREEMAN, Beef Cattle, 337-4766

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

If you would like more information about how to become a member of the Heath Enterprise Council, please call Wanda Mooney at 337-8344.



## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Jack Cable, Superintendent

The Saturday, July 15, wind and rain storm caused many trees and power lines to come down. Most of Heath was without electricity from about 7 AM on Saturday through noon Sunday. The Highway Department, Fire and Police Departments under the direction of Chief Earl Gleason - Civil Defense Director - cut trees, closed roads, rerouted traffic and helped people with medical emergencies (including an ambulance run) portable generators, water, etc. The Fire Department has portable generators. There is water available at Wittmore Spring and Peters Store. We also want to thank all the volunteers who helped open roads by cutting trees and moving limbs. Thanks to Bob Jillson of Massachusetts Electric for his assistance.

South Road has been repaved with the top coat. Problems persisted with the base asphalt installed last fall and action is pending the outcome of tests by the State against the contractor. A shim coat of asphalt was installed on Colrain Stage. This will be overlayed with a chip seal this summer. Also Number Nine Road is scheduled to be shimmed and paved with asphalt. These measures are being done to preserve the good roads we have. The other projects include Avery Brook bridges. Bids should be out by this writing. The Avery Brook T.I.P. project is progressing.

Gravel has been added to many roads during and after they were graded. Recently we completed adding a filter fabric to the base of Taylor Brook causeway, then adding gravel. The fabric prevents moisture from being wicked up into the gravel, thus this road should not be as muddy in the spring. The causeway whose base is logs (called a corduroy road) has been sinking so the water level was almost level with the road. At all these projects plus the storm we had "Road Closed" signs. Yet people drove around the signs and down the road anyway. I don't know how to convey to people that "Road Closed" means not to travel on these roads because: A. It's impassable; B. machinery and men working and vehicles make the jobs harder to do; C. traveling on the surface will damage the surface, especially with blacktop (Asphalt) which is applied hot and takes time to cool. Any traveling will permanently

damage and mark the surface. So please stay off "Road Closed" areas so we can have decent roads in Heath - or do you like them rough and torn up? I may just take your license number and turn it over to the State Police. There is a fine for traveling on closed roads - beware!

The Transfer Station is running smoothly - don't forget to wash all bottles and cans; drop off mercury batteries and the metals bin is back for the summer. Also get your sticker. July 1 was the deadline - no sticker, no use of the Transfer Station.

Blueberry season is here. See you in the field.

## PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

### PERCOLATION TESTS

Earl Gleason reports that there were 23 perc tests conducted in June and July. Two were repairs and six passed.

### BUILDING PERMITS

No building permits were issued for this period.

### DEED TRANSFERS

Town of Heath to Earl M. Gleason, Jacksonville Stage Road, 1 acre more or less, \$1.

Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association, Inc. to Frederick Golba of Chicopee, Mohawk Estates, lot 29, \$3,500.

Margery G. Bednarski to Eric L. and Ann Marie Floriani of Readsboro, VT, 46 Swamp Road, \$6,000.

Annie B. Lego to Eric L. and Ann Marie Floriani of Readsboro, VT, Swamp Road, lot 45, \$6,000.

Craig S. Gerry and Marie Elena Gandolfi to Craig S. Gerry, Sumner Stetson Road, 2 tracts, \$1.

Thomas F. Veto to Mickey L. Woodard and Karen E. Antroll of Colrain, 23 Number Nine Road, \$72,500.

Esther M. Dickinson, Ralph H. Dickinson and Howard E. Dickinson to Alanson L. Nichols, South Road, no consideration.

Leonard P. Rooke to Denise N.D. and Christopher R. Houle of Chicopee, Mohawk Estates, lots 26 to 28, \$5,000.

Town of Heath to Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association Inc., 12 Wigwam Dr., \$952.

Town of Heath to Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association Inc., 39 Cheyenne St., \$1,260.

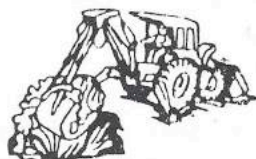
Roger Lewis to Edward F. and Rosemarie M. McCarthy of Monson, Mohawk Estates, lot 9, less than \$100.

Thomas M. and Margaret L. Moriarty to Thomas J. Brocuglio and Patrick Higgins of Enfield, CT., Mohawk Estates, lots 37 & 38, \$14,000.

Gregory A. Larder to Mary C. Rivers, Donald R. Rivers and Kathleen A. Alebras of West Springfield, Mohawk Estates, lot 9, \$3,100.

Gregory A. Larder to Mary C. Rivers, Donald R. Rivers and John F. Rivers of West Springfield, Mohawk Estates, lot 10, \$3,100.

# Shepherd Excavation



Rte. 8A, Heath, MA

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## TOWN OFFICERS

### Selectmen

David F. Howland  
Francis Rollo Kinsman  
Hilma A. Sumner, Chair

### Assessors

Donald Dekker, Chair

Joanne Fortune

Clark Johnson

### Town Clerk

June Day

### Town Treasurer

Kristi Nartowicz

### Tax Collector

Elizabeth Nichols

### Moderator

Douglas Wilkins

### Constables

Charles Kaempfer

Paul Keyes

### School Committee

Frank Brower

Linda Marcotte

### Planning Board

Robert Dane, Chair

Mary Carter

Helen Mackie

Robert Gruen

John Nicholson

### Finance Committee (One Vacancy)

Frank Rocchi, Chair

Gerald Gilbert

Karen Moore

Leighton McCutchen

### Library Trustees

Maureen O'Malley

Mary Boyd

Kim Richter

### Dog Officer

Michele Howe

### Fence Viewer

Assessors

### Tree Warden

Jack Cable

### Measurers of Wood & Bark

William Clark

Alanson Nichols

Paul Lively

### Field Drivers

Robert Gruen

Budge Litchfield

Eva Pazmino

### Sexton

Paul Lively

### Burial Agent

Paul Lively

## Town Boards Appointed by Selectmen

### Board of Health

Walter Gleason

Dawn Peters

Brooks McCutcheon

Board of Health Agent: Earl Gleason

### Zoning Board of Appeals

Carol Sartz, Chair

Todd Sumner

Dennis Peters

Martha McCutcheon

Hilma A. Sumner

## SELECTMEN'S APPOINTMENTS

### Fiscal Year 1996

Chairman, Selectmen - David F. Howland

Secretary, Selectmen - Hilma A. Sumner

Town Coordinator - Joyce Karpinski

Accountant - June I. Day

Americans w/Dis. Rep. - David Howland

Animal Inspector - Paul Lively

Assistant Tax Collector - Karen Thereault

Assistant Treasurer - Eileen Tougas

Building Manager/Custodian - Karen Mozalak

Chief of Police - Thomas J. Rabbitt

Civil Defense Director - Earl Gleason

County Planning Board Rep. - David F. Howland

County Advisory Board Rep. - David F. Howland

Tri-Town Landfill Comm. Rep. - Rollo Kinsman

FCCIP Representative - David F. Howland

Fire Chief - Earl Gleason

Forest Fire Warden - Earl Gleason

FRTA Representative - David F. Howland

Highway Superintendent - John H. Cable

Highway Department Liaison - Hilma A. Sumner

Inspector of Buildings - Victor Staley

Inspector, Electrical - Edward F. Marchefka

Inspector, Plumbing & Gas - Paulin J. Bukowski

Licensing Board - David F. Howland

Police Officers - Michael Smith, Margo Newton

Post Office Manager - Marcella Lively

Asst. to Post Office Manager - Eileen Tougas

Registrars - Catherine Cromack, Theresa Pettengill,

Alli Thane

Registrars, Alternate - Bruce Cromack, Leonard Day, Nan Gibbons

Safety Coordinator - David F. Howland

Town Counsel - Kopelman & Paige, P.C.

Veterans Agent - John Evans

Veterans Graves Officer - Dennis Peters

Veterans Representative - Rollo Kinsman

Fred G. Wells Trustee - Todd Sumner



**Town Committees Appointed by Selectmen**  
(one-year terms)

**Arts Lottery Council**

Catherine Tallen, Chair

Mike Chrisman

Helen Mackie

Delores Viarengo

Laurie Wheeler

Deborah Phillips

**Cemetery Commission**

Ronald Corey

Richard Gary

Clare Rabbitt

**Computer Committee**

Doug Wilkins

Karen Thereault

**Community Hall Committee**

Dolores Churchill

Donna Tanner

**Conservation Commission**

Brian DeVries

William Lattrell

Ruth Johnson

Dawn Peters

David Thane

**Council on Aging**

Sheila Litchfield

Ruth Fournier

Ann Rocchi

Dorothy Sessions

Mary Smith

Alli Thane

**Historical Commission**

James Coursey

Fred Burrington

June Day

Margaret Howland

Phyllis Kades

**Parks Commission**

Judy Thrasher

Richard Giard

Jayne Hare Dane

Veronica Smead

Catherine Tallen

**Recycling/Refuse Compactor Committee**

John H. Cable

Charles Kades

William Gran

Hilma A. Sumner

**Small Business Loan Comm**

Nancy Burrington

Bruce Cromack

Catherine Heyl

**Tax Fairness Committee**

Harvey Carter

Jenifer Giandalone

Leighton McCutchen

Deb Porter

Arthur Schwenger

**Committee Appointed by Moderator**

**School Building Committee**

Linda Marcotte, Chair

Budge Litchfield

Arthur Schwenger

Frank Rocchi

Robert Gruen

Susan Lively

John Henry

Diane Cerone

Catherine Heyl

Bob Clancy

Rollo Kinsman

**F. C. Technical School Rep**

Margo Newton

**Appointed by Library Trustees**

Librarian - Alli Thane

Assistant Librarian - Don Dekker

**BURNT HILL FARM**

Jack and Beverly Cable



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## TOWN OFFICE HOURS

(At Town Hall unless otherwise specified)

**Selectmen:** Tuesday 7:30 PM

**Accountant:** Monday - Thursday, 9 AM - 2 PM

(By appointment in August - call 337-8369)

**Assessors:** 1st & 3rd Thursday, 9:30 AM - 12 PM

**Town Clerk:** Monday - Thursday, 9 AM - 2 PM

(By appointment in August - call 337-8369)

**Town Treasurer:** Tuesday, 12-2 PM

(or by appointment call 624-5587)

**Tax Collector:** Tuesday, 7-9 PM

(or by appointment - 337-6665)

**TOWN COORDINATOR:** Monday, Wednesday,  
9 AM-2 PM, Tuesday, 2:30 PM-7:30 PM

**Finance Committee:** As posted

**Planning Board:** 2nd Monday of month 7 PM

**Conservation Commission:** 3rd Tuesday of month

**Heath School Committee:** 1st Tuesday of month

7:30 PM Community Hall

**Library Trustees:** 3rd Monday of month 7:30 PM

**Library:** Monday 5-8 PM Wednesday 12-5 PM

Saturday 9 AM - 12 PM

**Post Office:** Monday through Saturday

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

**Transfer Station:** Monday 9 AM - 1 PM

Wednesday 12 - 4 PM

Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM

**DOG OFFICER:** Michelle Howe, 337-8410

**CUSTODIAN/TOWN BLDGS. MGR.:** Karen  
Mozelak 337-4214

**BUILDING, PLUMBING, ELECTRICAL  
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GRAM 772-2026

**Town Telephones:** Town Hall 337-4934

Community Hall 337-4847

Town Garage 337-4462

Fire, Police & Ambulance 772-2133

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Sunday - 10 am - 7 pm

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