



VOLUME 18 NUMBER 4

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1996

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

50¢

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Eileen A. Tougas

The summer months have passed and yet most of us are still wondering if we ever really had a summer at all. We are grateful that we were blessed with beautiful weather for our two special events, the Heath Fair and the dedication ceremony of the Heath Elementary School.

As usual the Heath Fair was filled with fun, excitement and another spectacular fireworks display. It was a great time to stop and chat with friends and neighbors, listen to the music, browse the numerous displays in the Exhibit Hall and enjoy the competition at the show grounds.

Those of us who were present at the dedication ceremony for the Heath Elementary School were touched by the overwhelming spirit of pride that prevailed. It was wonderful to see the Heath children taking part in this dedication and know that the memory of this day will be stored in their hearts forever.

There will be an informational meeting on October 29 to present viewpoints regarding the future use of the Shapiro property. Rollo Kinsman will head up the committee to consider the following options for management of this land: (a) conservation under State control; or (b) local conservation managed by either the Heath Conservation Commission or by a task force proposed by the BOS and approved by the Town. Other suggestions will be welcome.

Senator Jane Swift's office has confirmed that Heath will receive \$150,000 from the Foundation Reserve Funds Program FY 97 and \$100,000 to rebuild Jacobs Road. Jack Cable, Highway Superintendent, informed the BOS that all plans are in place to begin work on Jacobs Road as soon as the funds are available.

The work is well under way on Avery Brook Road. The box culverts are in place and the road is expected to be reopened to traffic in a few weeks. This project is not expected to be completed until next summer.

A total of \$346,990 has been appropriated to the Town under the provisions of Section (2)(a) of Chapter 113 of the Acts of 1996 Commonwealth of Massachusetts for highway improvements over a two year period. Notification came from Commissioner Keven Sullivan that

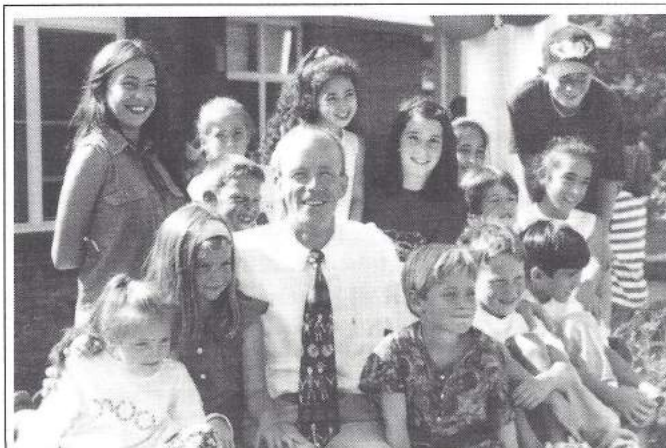
\$28,916 would come to the Town under a special appropriation under Chapter 204 Acts of 1996, to be utilized by June 30, 1997 for road improvements.

Jack Cable attended a workshop sponsored by the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District and is now looking into the feasibility of applying for grants to expand and improve our recycling efforts.

How about that new fire truck! Chief Mike Smith went to Northeast Fire Apparatus Inc., in Lancaster, PA to inspect and test drive the 1980 Mack 1000 GPM Pumper. Mike negotiated with Northeast Fire Apparatus to have some things updated on the truck such as a new 1,000 gallon Poly Tank, a new paint job with lettering plus a new hose. This was accomplished at no extra cost.

Police Chief Lorin Gowdy has received approval on two grants for a total of \$4,500 for community policing and \$6,000 through D.A.R.E. for playground equipment and education. Lorin has spoken to Phil O'Reilly, Principal of Heath Elementary School and Deputy Sheriff Sue Cory in the hopes of establishing a D.A.R.E. program in town.

The BOS regretfully accepted three resignations. Mary Carter, Chair of the Planning Board, Harvey Carter, Finance Committee and the Tax Fairness Committee, and Nancy Burrington, Small Business Loan Committee. We wish to extend our profound gratitude to Mary, Harvey and Nancy for all they have contributed to the Town of Heath. If anyone is interested in serving on any of these committees, please contact the BOS.



HEATH SCHOOL DEDICATION
AUGUST 14, 1996

HEATH PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

By Edith Royer

The appointment of Karen O. Moore, R.N., M.S., C.N.A.A., to the position of Vice President of Patient Care Services for Franklin Medical Center has been announced by Harlan Smith, president. Effective September 9, 1996, Moore will replace Ann Careau, R.N., M.A., whose promotion to Director of Rehabilitation Services for Baystate Health Systems was previously announced.

"It give me great pleasure to make this announcement because Karen brings a wealth of experience and preparation to this role," Smith said in making the announcement.

Moore has served as Vice President of Patient Care Services at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital since 1992. Her previous experience includes six years as Vice President of Nursing at Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital in Worcester, and four years in nursing management at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. In addition to her Master's Degree in Nursing Administration from the University of Massachusetts, Moore holds a B.S. in Nursing from Boston State College and has done post graduate work in Neurosurgical and Neurological Nursing at the Montreal Neurological Institute, Montreal, Canada. She has had numerous academic affiliations and board memberships in professional nursing associations, health care management organizations, and in community services.

She is also active in professional educational endeavors, speaking and contributing articles in the areas of organizational change and restructuring. She plays an active role in civic affairs in Heath, where she resides with her husband and two children.

For information about hospital programs and services, contact "The Professionals at Franklin Medical Center" at (413) 773-8557, or if calling from outside the area: 1-800-377-HEALTH. Your calls will be answered seven days a week: Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 8 PM; and weekends and holidays, 8 AM to 5 PM.



KAREN MOORE
(Photo Courtesy of Franklin Medical Center)

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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CLASSIFIED ADS - \$2.00 per line.

Send all correspondence to: The Heath Herald, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346-0054.

HEATH LADIES AID

by Edith C. Royer

Our Christmas sale will be held November 2 in the Community Hall from 10 AM to 3 PM. We will have the usual fancy articles, toys, decorations and food. Lunch will also be on sale. Come and look around and visit friends.

ALAN'S ALMANAC

by Alan Nichols

	<u>Precip</u>	<u>Avg</u>
May	6.28	4.42
June	3.99	4.47
July	7.85	4.41
Aug	1.28	4.25
Sep	7.39	4.29

The two months where precipitation was over seven inches were both months where the remains of hurricanes passed through. September also had a typical nor'easter with several inches of rain that later in the year could have been more than two feet of snow.

AWARD RECEIVED

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

Rollo Kinsman of Heath recently received the honor of having a seat at the National Theatre in Washington, DC dedicated to him "in recognition of his contribution to the performing arts as a performer, director, producer, and administrator of musical and theatrical events for military personnel around the world", according to Margaret Lynn, Member, Board of Trustees, Treasurer, and Facilitator of the National Theatre Dedicated Seat Program, who sponsored Rollo's award.

Mr. Kinsman has led a life dedicated to music and entertainment. A Heath native, he began vocal training at Deerfield Academy and majored in voice at the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, CT. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and while stationed in New York City studied at Carnegie Hall Studios. The jobs he held from there on were various and interesting. He was assigned to Special Services in Korea and when out of the Army took the position of Professional Entertainment Director in Korea, where he auditioned and furnished shows for American Forces in Korea. He also directed the first all Army show to tour Vietnam, Thailand, Okinawa, Japan, Korea and Hawaii.

Mr. Kinsman then accepted a job as Director of Music and Theatre at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and then on to Washington DC as Deputy Director of the Army's Music and Theatre Program. Highlights in this assignment were: developing music and theatre programs at Army installations around the world; conducting the All Army Music Composers' Competition and producing recordings of the winning competitions with the U. S. Army Field Band; and conducting music and theatre management seminars in the U.S. and Europe. His last position before retiring in 1994 was Chief of the Recreation Division, Recreation Directorate, Headquarters, Department of the Army. During his years in Washington DC he continued to study voice and to sing in and around the metropolitan area.



ROLLO KINSMAN (SECOND FROM LEFT) AT AWARDS RECEPTION, NATIONAL THEATRE, WASHINGTON, DC

In light of these contributions he and a number of others received this honor on August 25, 1996 at a reception in the Helen Hayes Gallery. Mr. Ron Logan of Walt Disney Entertainment presented the plaques. During the evening the National Theatre also inaugurated "The President's Row" of seats. On this first occasion seats were dedicated to George H. W. Bush and Harry S. Truman.

In Heath again since 1994, Mr. Kinsman is presently a member of the board of selectmen and is active within the community. When not performing town duties he may be found performing in concerts, at special events, church cantatas and in the choir of the First Baptist Church of Colrain.

"WEST COUNTY LIGHT" SHOWN

A solitary barn, deep in shadow but for the last vestiges of light on the weather vane atop its peak...slivers of light sifted through a barn side highlighting a winter's worth of hay...distant Monadnock peeking through a row of bucket laden maples...these are all images that speak to us of country. And country is what was seen during Heath artist Frederick Burrington's August show "West County Light".

Held at the Heath Union Church and open to the public throughout the Heath Fair weekend, Mr. Burrington's "West County Light" was comprised of twenty-two pieces. Whether of a distant view, a piece of forgotten farm equipment, or an old farm building, his dry brush watercolor paintings and ink and pen drawings seemed to capture moments and places in time unique to that which we call home. As well as his original works a number of prints were also to be seen, including "Genesis" and "The Gardener".

Friday night's opening reception was well attended, and during the weekend over two hundred visitors stopped in to view the show.

Mr. Burrington will be demonstrating his ink and pen drawing technique for the Deerfield Valley Artist's Association on October 24 at 8 PM at the First Congregational Church in Greenfield. All are welcome. For more information the artist may be contacted at 339-5549.

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LIBRARY LINES

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

Congratulations to all who participated in the library's summer reading program. Those receiving prizes for their summer reading efforts were: Sara Jane Wodin-Schwartz, Jolene Richter, Paul Ferretti, Beth Ferretti, Laura Ferretti, and Ruth Ayers. Each received a certificate for finishing the program and a gift certificate to Boswell's Books in Shelburne. A drawing for a pair of tickets to the Eastern States Exposition was held among those who completed the summer reading program. The winner of the tickets was Beth Ferretti.

There are a number of new books and videos in the library. In adult non-fiction, The Art of Raising a Puppy by the Monks of New Skete; Women's Body, Women's Wisdom; Peterson's Field Guides to Edible Wild Plants and Medicinal Plants; and The Artist's Way. In adult fiction, Servant of Bones by Anne Rice; Stone Diaries by Carol Shields; and Matters of Choices by Noah Gordon. There are also a large number of newly donated titles. For younger readers we have gotten in Wischild and Juniper, both by Monica Furlong; Night Terrors: Stories of Shadow and Substance, edited by Lois Duncan; and Harold and the Purple Crayon, an easy reader. New videos for various ages include: Johnny Mnemonic, Apollo 13, The Babysitter's Club, Rob Roy, How to Make an American Quilt, Batman Forever, A Walk in the Clouds, Bridges of Madison County, and Babe.

September was the American Library Association's library card sign up month. I am asking that folks stop by and renew their library membership. This is to update current addresses, telephone numbers and names of family members using the library. It only takes a few minutes, so please stop by!

Volunteers are needed to help with carrying books for the bookmobile every nine weeks. The time commitment is for a few hours on Wednesday morning every nine weeks. If interested, just stop by the library and let me know.



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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Heath Free Public Library held their annual meeting in July and elected Pat Leuchtman as President, Don Dekker as Vice-President, Joanne Fortune as Secretary and Phyllis Thane as Treasurer.

The first order of business was planning the annual used book sale and raffle held at the Heath Fair. We are very grateful to Alli and Ernie Thane, Bob Dane, June Day, Cynthia, Clark and Lyra Johnson, and Pat Leuchtman, all of whom donated items and services to our successful raffle.

We also thank all those who donated books to the sale, and those who devotedly moved them from Sawyer Hall to the Fairgrounds, staffed the sale - and cleaned up. Bonnie Wodin, Rick Ryan, Maureen O'Malley, and all those who bought books, you are Friends in deed.

The book sale and raffle are our main fund-raising efforts of the year; this time we took in \$384 and our new librarian, Laurie Wheeler Burrington, had prepared a list of needs. We voted to pay for new library shelving which is needed for the collection which continues to grow - in spite of Don Dekker's on-going and ruthless weeding.

We also voted \$500 for new books and magazines - to fill up some of those new shelves. Heath is a town of readers, old and young, reading for pleasure and instruction and inspiration. The library's book budget is limited and the Friends were happy to provide the funds for extra new print materials.

The new Heath School and its new library were also on our minds. We voted \$200 to go into the capital fund which would be matched by state funds. We requested that all of that money be spent on books by local authors and illustrators, and books about nature. We recognize that since the school library is brand new, Wanda Mussachio and her eager young readers need all the help they can get to build their new collection of books.

For those who are not familiar with the Friends of the Heath Library, we are a very informally organized group of people who love the library and believe in its vital service to the town. Some of us volunteer to help the librarian with shelving, story hour or other activities. Some of us help raise money which is used to cover needs and desires that can't be met by the regular budget. In the past we have funded book gift certificates used as prizes for the summer reading program, bought encyclopedias, video tapes, and children's books by local writers and illustrators.

It's not hard to be a friend. There are no dues and only one annual meeting a year. All it really takes is a desire to be of service to the library. If you want any more information, call Pat Leuchtman at 337-4316.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

by Alice Kinsman and Pegge Howland

Some 30 members and friends gathered at the Solomon Temple Barn Museum on August 11, 1996 to enjoy a potluck supper prior to the 1996 Annual Meeting of the Heath Historical Society. Following the reading of the 1995 Annual Meeting minutes by Alice Kinsman, the Treasurer's Annual Report by Dave Howland, and the Presidents' Annual Report by Pegge Howland, the Rev. Richard Gary led the group in a moment of silent prayer in remembrance of Elizabeth Eldridge, the Society member who recently passed away.

Under new projects, Dave Howland reported that the Society has a number of musical instruments in its collection that need attention. One in particular, a Church bass, which was used in the Heath church in the mid-19th century, is in serious disrepair. Dave said that restoring it to a "nice for display" state would cost about \$525, and to "playing condition", about \$1,000. He noted that a fund drive would be necessary should this project be undertaken by the Society. Pegge Howland reminded everyone that funds are also needed to finish the floor of the Solomon Temple Barn Museum. The cost of both projects could run to \$3,000. After some discussion, a motion to begin a fund drive to raise sufficient money to restore the bass to playing condition and to put a floor in the Barn carried unanimously.

Laurie Burrington reported that a self-guided tour of Heath landmarks and historic sites is under development. A brochure will feature Heath Center and three circuit tours that will begin and end in the Center. The plan was favorably received and ideas for its completion were offered.

In the annual election, the following slate of officers was voted: Pegge Howland, reelected President for two years; June Day reelected Vice-President for two years; and Laurie Burrington and Fred Burrington elected directors for three years. Many thanks and much appreciation were expressed to retiring Mike Bakalar for his many years of faithful service on the Board of Directors.

Bob Gear, a new member, suggested that we plant some flowers around the Solomon Temple Barn Museum. This idea was enthusiastically received and a subcommittee composed of Elsa Bakalar, Laurie Burrington, Bob Gear and Buck DenOuden was formed to identify and select native plants and to proceed with the plantings as appropriate.

After the meeting adjourned, the group enjoyed the thigh-slapping music of Dave Green and the Possum Glory String Band. A good time was had by all.

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HEATH UNION CHURCH NEWS

by Ruth Corey

Mr. Colin Lucid and his wife Anne-Marie have been assigned by Village Missions to lead our congregation. Pastor Lucid is a recent graduate of a Bible college in Florida. Prior to entering college the Lucids lived in Waterbury, CT where he had been a baker in his family's business, then worked for the state in the agricultural field.

The Lucids have four children. Andrea is 18; Kathleen, 13; Pamela, 11 and Colin Jr., is 6. They are all looking forward to living in New England again.

Pastor Roger Peace and Rhodessa have been assigned to another Village Missions church, and their family has moved to East Wallingford, VT.

The craft fair the church sponsored in July at the fairgrounds was a busy one, with all the tables filled. This year members of the Heath Enterprise Council participated, bringing some very interesting items and illustrations of their businesses and professions. The Heath Ladies Aid had a very successful day with a good variety of gifts and handcrafts on sale.

The annual church family picnic with outdoor church service brought 35 together for a very nice day on September 15.

MOHAWK VALLEY HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICES

The following health education activities are offered by Mohawk Valley Health Education Services during the month of October. Pre-registration is requested for all programs. Please call 625-2503 to register.

MAKING HERB BREADS. There's nothing as wonderful as eating fresh, homemade breads. Join Bonnie Wodin of Golden Yarrow Landscaping and create a loaf of fresh herb bread that you can take home and bake. Monday, October 21, 6:30 - 9:30 PM at Tobacco Free Storefront, State Street, Buckland. Fee: \$12 (includes materials).

VISUALIZE YOURSELF A WINNER. Juliet Seaver will help teens and young adults clearly envision what they want to achieve. This will be a relaxing, fun way to learn to use creative visualization to do your best in sports, scholastic, employment and other skill areas. Wednesday, October 30, 6:30 - 8:30 PM at Tobacco Free Storefront, State Street, Buckland.

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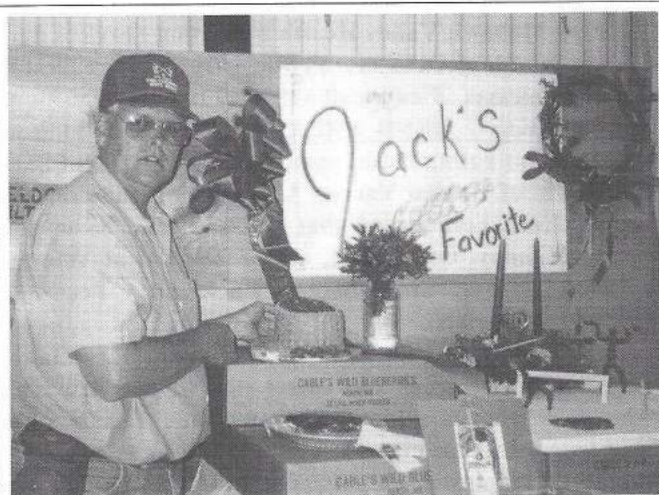
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THIRTY YEARS OF BLUEBERRIES

by Jack Cable

We celebrated our 30th year and approximately 800 tons of blueberry picking at our Burnt Hill Farm this season with great happenings. First we were honored to be on the Franklin County Trust Farm and Garden Tour in June. Between the farm (the largest blueberry farm in New England outside of Maine); our historic site (celtic stones); 50 mile plus view and Beverly's flower garden, the tour was great! We had excellent publicity from the area newspapers on our farming activities. The crop was OK - not great - but our harvesting crew was excellent which made for a good year. The crew wanted to participate in the Fair parade so we put a sorting machine on a trailer. The girls sorted berries as we went along the parade route while the boys followed behind carrying their blueberry picking scoops. The "JACK'S FAVORITE" drew many entrants - very innovative and delicious. Carol Lively won with her "Basket of Blueberries" cake which was also delicious. Lara Thane got the "best tasting" category.

A first for Burnt Hill and possibly for Heath - A TOUR BUS - came up to our farm - from my home town area of Torrington in Torrington, CT. Thirty-one friends were on the bus - a surprise. The bus drove up on top of the hill where the 50 mile view is. I do not believe that a full size bus has ever been up on top! They had a picnic, picked berries, toured the stones, toured our home and the blueberry sorting barn. A great activity, great friends, great 30 years!



JACK'S FAVORITE

SURPRISE PARTY HELD

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

Mrs. Edith Royer was given a surprise potluck dinner on Sunday August 4 in honor of her many years of service to the community of Heath.

Over eighty friends and family members from Heath, Greenfield, Shelburne, Charlemont, Hawley, Bennington, VT and Connecticut brought presents, well wishes, and stories of Mrs. Royer's place in their hearts.

Over the years Mrs. Royer has given much to the town. Roger Peace read a list of the many capacities in which she has served the town: Ladies' Aid, Hall Committee, Hall Services, has written for the Heath Herald, Town Crier, West County News, and has organized more events than imaginable. Carroll Stowe spoke up and said it would be a big crowd of people if everyone whom she had fed over the years was put together.

A number of people recalled their time with her, from her "big, huge smile of Welcome", her memorable "just you hold on a minute", and her friendship and compassionate nature. She was also called "the best birthday rememberer".

The dinner was put on by the Hall Committee, comprised of Val Kaempfer, Dolly Churchill, Donna Tanner, Margot Newton, Ruth Corey, as well as Karen Therault. Colorful bouquets of flowers by Rhodessa Peace decorated the Hall, and a beautiful cake made by Wendy Girard graced a table full of delectable potluck dishes. It also appeared that secrets are hard to keep from Mrs. Royer. In an effort to keep it a surprise she was asked to do a little work for her own party, being led to believe the party was for another friend.

Sunday afternoon was a gathering of people brought together in their appreciation of, and friendship for, Edith Royer, who has given so much of her spirit and caring to all she meets. The lives she touches are finer for her part in them.

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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 VERY YOUNG OX MAN

Nathan and Cindy Clark are blessed with two youngsters, Samantha and Daniel. These young people are always on hand when the cattle are being exercised.

Dan is seven years old and has broken a nice yoke of Holstein steers. Lion is the off steer and Tiger is the near or nigh steer. Most ox men work their cattle standing with the nigh animal next to their right side. Young Dan Clark is religiously faithful to his young cattle. He works them every chance he gets. It's not uncommon to pass the Clark area and see four yoke of cattle warming up.

The Fair season is winding down so the training won't be so critical. On a recent weekend Dan and his

POLLING PLACE CHANGE

by June Day

The last date to register to vote in the November Presidential Election is Wednesday October 16th. I will be at the Town Office between 7 and 8 that evening for the final, final last chance to register. Of course you may come in anytime before that to register or call me so that I can send out a mail-in voter registration form to you.

Registered voters in Heath totalled 427 for the September 17th State primary. We had only 48 actually vote, but then there was only one contest on each of the major party ballots, that for the Senate seat that Jane Swift is vacating.

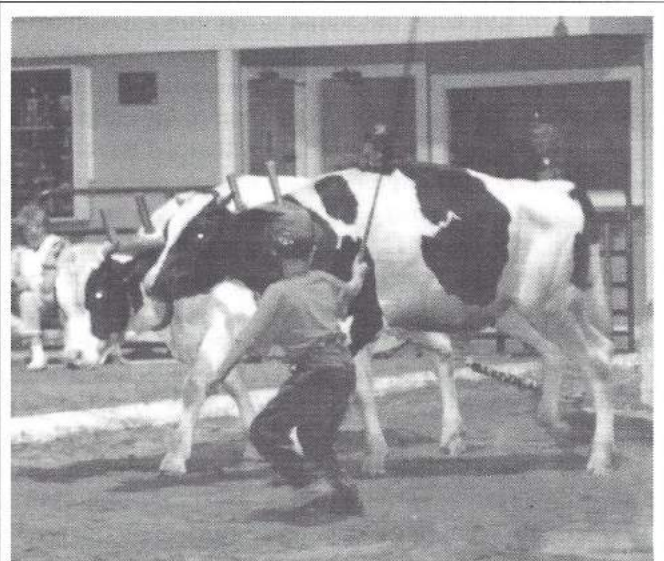
Alli Thane and Terry Pettengill, Heath Registrars for many years, suggested that the Town go back to voting downstairs at the Community Hall now that the Preschool has moved to the new Heath school. There will be plenty of room there for us to set up the polling place properly and we will not need to crowd Sawyer Hall. If you should forget and start up the Sawyer Hall steps, there will be signs directing you across the street.

If anyone is interested in participating in the counting, please call me. I believe we may need 6 or 8 teams of two to count the 300 to 400 ballots we will probably have.

young steers helped get out seven cords of wood. That's some good bit of work when you know that most boys Dan's age would rather be in front of the tube.

The reason for this story is to tell of Dan's success with Tiger and Lion at New Boston, NH on Saturday, September 7. The Clarks, Bill, Dan's grandfather, Nathan, Dan's dad and Dan trekked to New Boston to participate in the Ox Pulls. Both 1200 and 1600 pound classes were offered for young cattle and teamsters. Dan can be most pleased with the work he has put into these young cattle. There were 16 pairs of cattle in the 1600 pound class and our young Heath farmer-to-be showed them how it should be done. He had to take all three hitches but after the dust settled Dan had the first place ribbon for the distance of 63 inches -- a proud moment for a seven year old!

This young man had worked very earnestly for this happy event. It is unfortunate that very few people know about Dan's success with his cattle, but if he were super talented at some sport every one would lavish a great amount of attention in his direction. To all who read this article, look the young man up and shake a most deserving hand.



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MEMORIES OF SCHOOL DAYS IN HEATH

by Rollo Kinsman

What an exciting day, opening our new school, the ninth school to be opened in Heath. I attended the Heath Center School (constructed in 1786) from 1937 to 1945.

School days at the Heath Center School were unique! Eight grades in one room with one teacher. Add to this Johnny Churchill with his endless fun and pranks and it is no wonder we changed teachers so often. Three teachers I remember with particular fondness are Ms. Meadon (my first grade teacher), Ms. Plouffe and Ms. Buijnowski. Strange as it may seem . . . my memories of the Heath Center School include very few of an academic nature. My favorites . . . recess time with games of alley-over and baseball, snowball fights, catching polliwogs out back in the swamp and bicycle racing. Lunch time with visits to Peon's store for candy and soda pop to augment our lunches, longer games of alley-over and baseball, snow sliding down Drown's Hill, "borrowing" apples and pears from "Uncle" Henry Churchill's favorite trees.

Daily school chores such as getting firewood from the shed and going next door to the Peons for pails full of drinking water were actually rewards for either good behavior or outstanding school work. They were considered rewards because we did them during school time rather than at recess. They were not without danger, however, because the Peons had a mean rooster who took delight in attacking little people. For this reason, water carriers always did so in pairs.

Since "snow days" were practically unheard of in those years, just getting to school was an experience in itself. When the old Ford couldn't get through, dad would hook the horses to the double runner sled (modified with a covered wagon type top) and away we would go. On the coldest days kerosene lanterns were placed under the seats and buffalo robes were bundled over us for warmth. On the "warmer" cold winter days the Giard boys, my brother Russell and I would tie our sled behind for a two mile tow to the top of Drown's Hill and a fast slide to the school house. No wonder we never thought of cold weather and snow as a hardship, but quite the opposite.

I can still hear the sound of the big caterpillar snow plow coming through to open up the roads after a particularly heavy storm. In those days they would even fight their way up our lane which was usually drifted level full with four to eight foot snow drifts. As they did so, often in the middle of the night, the bark of the powerful engine and snow rolling high off the wings of the plow provided a thrill not many children of today will ever experience. A topic of discussion as the plow neared our house was whether Max Churchill or Ed Burckard was the driver. (Some folks used to say they could tell who was driving by the sound of the engine.) Both of these men often worked the clock around to open Heath roads. To us they were bigger than life heroes, typical of the Heath men I remember. Extraordinary men accomplishing extraordinary tasks with no fuss.

Trips to Heath Library during school book reading competitions always included coaching and helpful hints by Pearl Tanner. I do not remember having any other librarian. School Christmas parties with music, refreshments and gifts from Santa Claus who entered amid much excitement, banging of doors and the sound of reindeer bells were a child's delight. My first suspicions about Santa Claus were raised one year when Santa's voice sounded exactly like Max Churchill.

Memorial Day exercises were very special. The march up Drown's Hill to the cemetery carrying lilacs and flags for the grave sites was a feeling like none other. To be chosen to carry the big school flag or recite a poem during the memorial program was a special honor. To this day, lilac is my favorite fragrance.

The 4-H club meetings at the Dickinsons was an after school activity we looked forward to with great anticipation. We appreciated the time and efforts by Ralph and Howard in teaching us beginning carpentry and other crafts. Equally appreciated (some times even more appreciated) were the refreshments served by Mrs. Dickinson and Esther.

After school activities also included Wednesday afternoon Bible study which began with Reverend Dixon picking us up in his 1936 gray Chevy and driving down to the South School. In addition to the Bible study, this experience provided the opportunity for us to meet other young people who remained our friends over the years. These new friends included the Gleason boys, the Landstrom girls, the Sumners and the Burringtons. After school violin lessons offered by Mrs. Dixon for all who would attend was another of the contributions these two fine people made to our growing up experience.

Graduation at last...graduation time included afternoon rehearsals at the community center with all four Heath Schools (North, Branch, South and Center) trying to outdo each other with graduation programs. These graduation exercises provided our first opportunity to meet the Stetson boys, the Peters and the Livelys. Graduation night provided much excitement and a reason to get the milking done early.

Following high school at Arms Academy and farming for a few years, the opportunity for further education and a career in music, theatre and recreation management took me away from Heath and around the world for 37 wonderful years. But at last my wife Alice, our daughter Elizabeth and I have come home to live permanently on the family homestead in Heath.

My prayerful hope for all attending our new school is that you will not only learn and prepare yourselves for your life's work, but also that you will make memories that will hold you close to the town of Heath.

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Evergreen Information
337-4425

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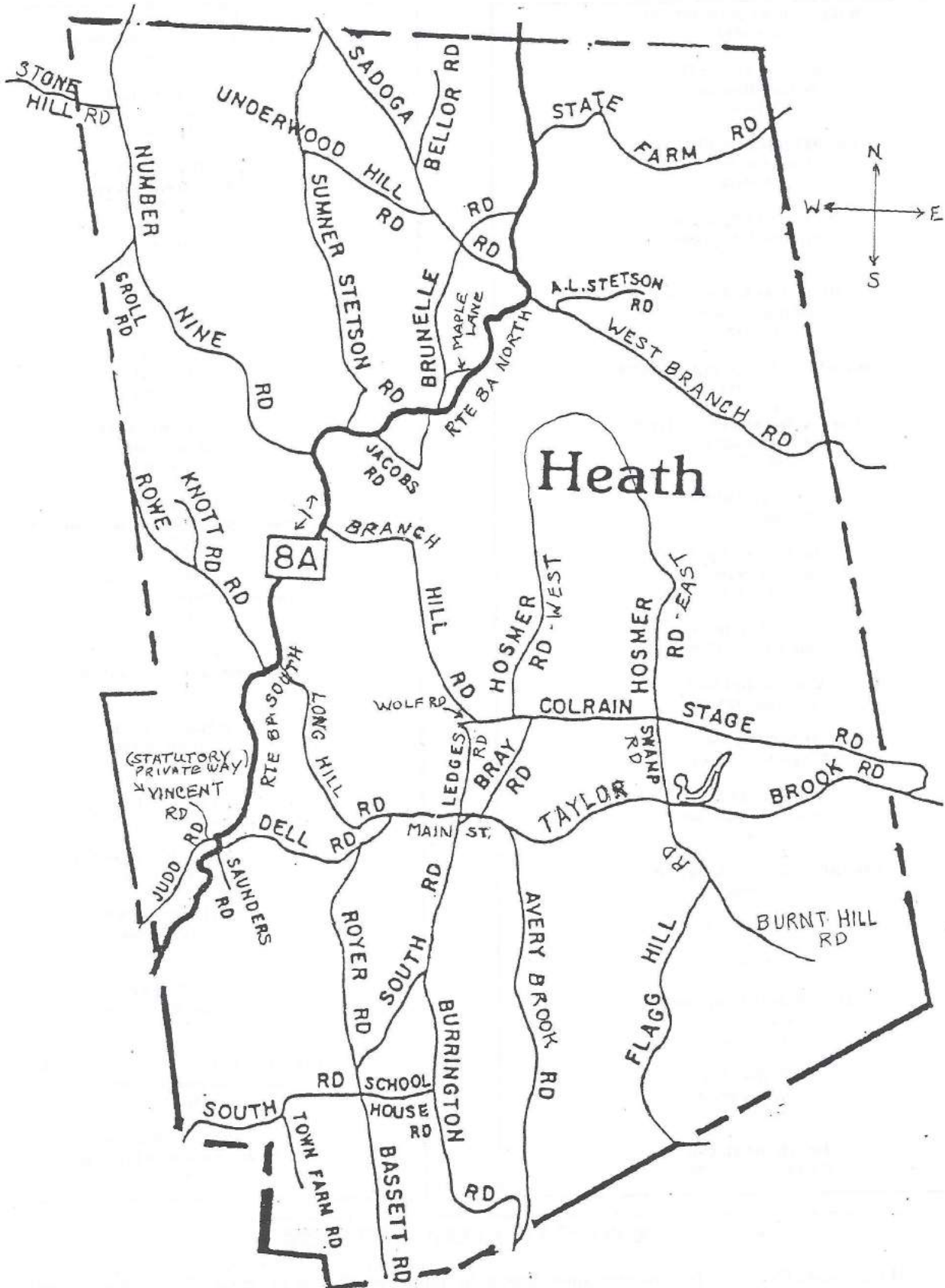
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If you would like more information about how to become a member of the Heath Enterprise Council,
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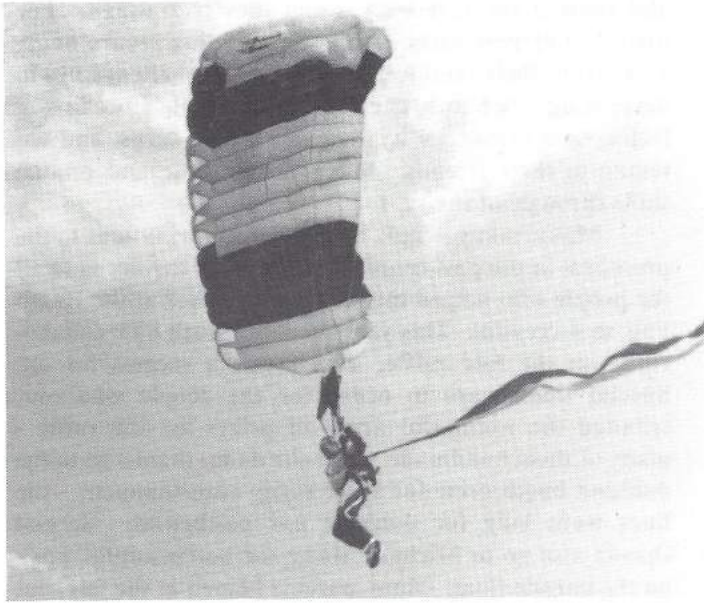
OFFICIAL HEATH TOWN ROADS

As Voted at the Annual Town Meeting

May 11, 1996



HEATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DEDICATION AUGUST 24, 1996



HEATH PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Suzanne Crawford

This past summer has been a busy, exciting time of transition for the Heath Preschool, as we have moved from the Community Hall into our new classroom at the Heath Elementary School. I want to express our gratitude to the town for sharing the Community Hall with the preschool all these years. It was a wonderful home for the preschool with its spacious room, safe play areas, kitchen, and central location. How lucky we are to be moving from one great space into another! Our new room is beautiful - bright and airy with a lovely view outside - as is true of all the classrooms throughout the new school. We are looking forward to being part of a bigger school community and the richness that will bring to our program. We will enjoy participating in special events, having stories and songs with the librarian and music teacher, and sharing with the other students.

Another major change for the preschool has occurred in our scheduling this year. Reflecting the smaller pool of eligible students, in part because Rowe now has a preschool, we have decided to have a morning session only that runs 4 days a week. We will return to double sessions 3 days a week in the future when the enrollment is higher again.

After all the planning and moving, it sure feels great to be with the children again. They are doing a great job settling into their new classroom, and it has been fun for many of them to see older brothers, sisters, cousins and friends at work in their classes. The preschoolers are already quite experienced at their most

important work - exploring the world through play. They are usually wonderfully independent in choosing what they will play with, using the materials appropriately, and putting the toys back when they're finished. For some the biggest early challenge is feeling secure being away from their families; for others, the challenge lies in developing more awareness of other people's needs and feelings, as evidenced by sharing, taking turns, and listening to their friends. We practice these and related skills throughout the year.

Many, many people have made contributions to the preschool in the past couple months. Our thanks go to all the people who helped make the fund raiser at the Heath Fair so successful. This year the new Heath PTP collaborated on the fair raffle, and it was a success for all. Special thanks are in order for the people who contributed the wonderful array of prizes for the raffle - many of them handmade. Also our damp thanks go to the dunking booth crew for their soggy entertainment - the lines were long for dunking our celebrities. Special thanks also go to Michelle Howe for her beautiful work on the parade float. Many parents helped at the fair, but several were invaluable in planning, organizing and keeping things running smoothly. Giant thanks go to Deborah Phillips, Mary Vilbon, Alice Lemelin and Jill Kuehl for this important role. We give our thanks to Deborah Phillips, Alice Lemelin, and Jill Kuehl, who have finished their terms on the Advisory Council. A giant THANK YOU goes to the Heath Highway Department, filling our sandbox and moving our tricycle shed. Our outdoor play has been greatly enriched by their kind help. If you see any of them, please give them a thanks! The Heath Preschool is indeed fortunate to have such great community support.



HEATH PRESCHOOL FLOAT FOR HEATH FAIR
(Photo by Suzanne Crawford)



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MOHAWK TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL

by Magen MacDougall

This 1996-97 school year is one unlike any other. This is the first year in which we have block scheduling. Block scheduling consists of four ninety minute classes. These are broken up into forty-five minute classes to allow for gym class and lunches. There are mixed feelings from the students regarding this new scheduling. Many like it because we do not have as many classes to deal with at one time. Yet others feel that ninety minutes is too long to sit in any class. An advantage to this new schedule is that some of the seniors will be able to graduate in January and go on to take some classes at Greenfield Community College if they so desire.

The music department is already hard at work on their latest musical. The Wizard of Oz will be the next masterpiece to come off the stage of Mohawk. The cast includes Paul Ferretti as the tin man, Rachel Brower, and a host of other young actors and actresses. The performance will be November 8 and 9 at 8 PM and on November 10 at 2 PM in the Mohawk auditorium. There will be two performances at the Shea Theatre on November 15 and 16 at 8 PM. We hope to see you at one of these shows, for it promises to be a great performance.

A new addition to Mohawk athletics is an Intramural sports program. This will allow students who do not wish to play a sport at the interscholastic level to participate in a sport. The traditional sports at Mohawk are doing very well this season. The fall sports include Football, Field Hockey, Girls' Volleyball and Boys' and Girls' Cross Country, as well as Boys' and Girls' Soccer. Mohawk sports are usually excellent, and this year is no exception. We encourage you to come and watch a game or meet sometime and show your support for Mohawk Athletics.

Booster day was held September 28 this year, with a week of spirit building activities prior to the big football game. This year the team played against Turners Falls

High School. The game was an exciting one to watch. Spirit week included pajama day, body paint day, class animal day (which included having to wear cheese on your body), class color day, and the spirited blue and gold day. This is a time when the entire school is together and showing support for our sports teams. It is perhaps the most energetic week of the entire year at Mohawk.



MAGEN MACDOUGALL
(Photo by Sue Silvester)

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

by Alice J. Kinsman

On August 1, Elizabeth Kinsman, Justin Lively and Megan MacDougall of Heath said "bonjour" to their French "sisters" Faustine Rambal and Helene Dufour and "brother" Antoine Cantarel who arrived at Mohawk Trail Regional School, along with 14 other French students who had chosen Western MA for their "typical North American experience" -- a great place to broaden world views and sharpen English skills!

With ready smiles and unfailing courtesy they quickly and permanently endeared themselves not only to their host siblings but also to their host families and friends as well. The one month homestay was, by all accounts, a huge success. Their "things to do, places to see" list was long and varied -- it included day trips to Boston, Cambridge, Historic Deerfield, Stockbridge and other local cultural events such as the Heath Fair, Square Dancing, the all American wiener roast, corn-on-the-cob and BLTs.

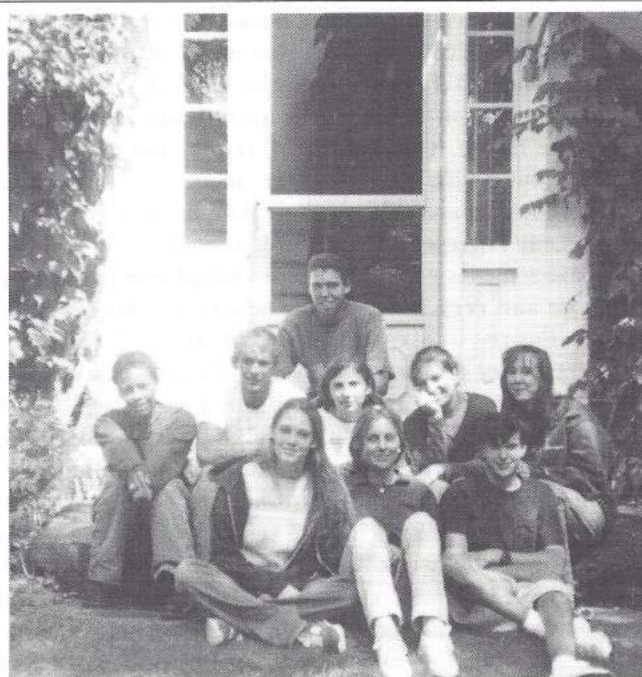
Too soon the month was over. Tearful goodbyes were said and many promises were made -- to keep in touch -- to write or phone -- to meet again, here or there -- to keep the French connection!

In the photograph below the people are:

Top - Antoine Cantarel.

Middle Row (L-R) - Laurence Ahousson, Justin Lively, Helene Dufour, Alicia Belair and Megan MacDougall.

Bottom Row (L-R) - Elizabeth Kinsman, Faustine Rambal and Cory Rothwell



HEATH'S FRENCH CONNECTION
(Photo by Alice J. Kinsman)

HEATH HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

by Jack Cable, Superintendent

Avery Brook is finally seeing some results. Many questions have been asked about the activities on this road. The culverts are being installed and the road should be open soon. The job as of this writing is progressing on schedule with no major problems.

The culverts were late in arriving at the site because of delays in manufacturing. At least they will be done before winter. NOTE - this project was started before my employment as highway superintendent.

The Avery Brook Road restoration project is close to completion as far as engineering is concerned. Hopefully restoration work can begin next summer. This road is the most traveled in Heath. We need a smooth, safe road to get to Route 2. I attended a Charlemont selectmen's meeting to plead with them to do something from the Heath line to Route 2. The state has bent over backward to keep this road rural but safe. Many requirements have been waived to keep the road character "country" and Bill Silvernale and his staff at Lenox deserve respect for what they are trying to accomplish.

We used some Chapter 90 money to improve our gravel roads this summer and comments on our work have been commendable. We also have a project to finish Colrain Stage to the Colrain line but weather and conservation approval on the culvert will postpone the work until Spring. We have new Chapter 90 money coming and I want to put this on Branch Hill Road - everyone agrees its needed!

The following school issues have been addressed. Jacobs Road - Representative Merrigan and Senator Swift worked hard to get some money for the road. The Public Works Economic Development grant program which Joyce and I tried desperately to get failed. The representatives got it placed on an unrelated bill and it passed the House. Thank John Merrigan and the Senate. Thank Jane Swift. Getting the money in hand is a problem and we are still waiting. The mess is in Boston, not with our representatives! We had made

arrangements with Doug Crowningshield to pick up the waste and recyclables at the school, but his untimely death has us re- structuring the situation. Bob Clancy and I have met on snow removal and have contracted a party to do the job. Remember that Jacobs Road is all one-way traffic until further notice! The crew moved the pre-school shed to the new school and got sand in Greenfield for their sandbox. Also we noticed barbed wire on the trees along the back of the school (in disrepair and broken) so we removed all this wire before school started.

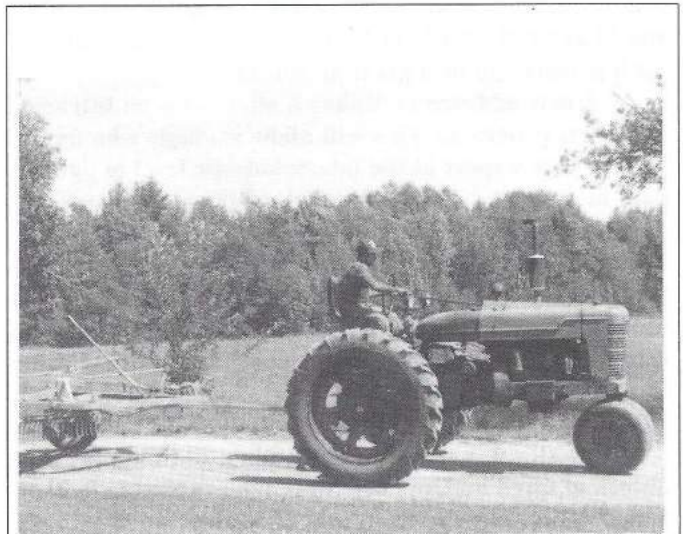
Jason Clark was our summer help on the crew and was an excellent addition. The Franklin County Commission is updating the road inventory for each town and implementation of a local pavement management system. I attended a workshop on September 19 on these subjects. Dohn and I attended the Massachusetts Highway Association Trade Show in Fort Devens on September 5; all the

crew attended the Berkshire County Highway Superintendent Equipment Show on September 13.

We are preparing our winter equipment for the upcoming season (last year we sanded on November 7!). We're patching roads, cutting brush and improving drainage. Bids are awarded for our sand and salt. On August 28 one of our chain saws was stolen from the garage. The building was locked and the saw hidden -- and it was still taken! Police are investigating the theft and also the theft of gasoline.

More recycling is on the way. Plastic containers will soon be accepted at the transfer station. Watch your newspapers on when implementation of this program will take place. Also, Hazardous Material Disposal day is October 19 at Buckland Highway Department. Bud is back at his post at the transfer station following surgery. Cleon did his chores - thanks Cleon - speedy recovery Bud!

Our new school is open - drive carefully as children are on the road - also buses are traveling with their precious cargo. We extend our deepest sympathy to Doug Crowningshield's family - he is already missed by the Highway Department personnel.



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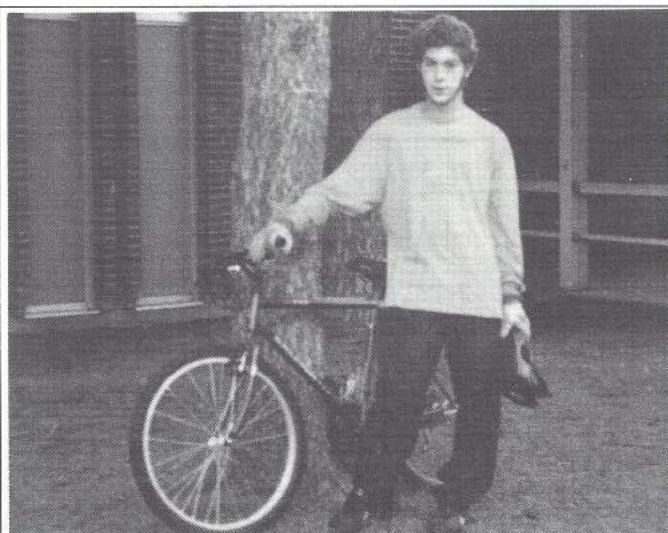
36 State St.
(near Bridge of Flowers)
Shelburne Falls
625-9898

COLIN GRUEN BICYCLES TO MOHAWK

by Susan Silvester

Colin Gruen, a senior this year, is one of many enterprising students at Mohawk who excels in sports, academics and extra-curricular activities. His long list of accomplishments and involvement in school functions is most impressive. Colin is Vice President of the senior class, a member of the Peer Mediation Team, and he plays basketball, soccer and volleyball. His is a member of the Student Council and a representative to the Local Education Council. Outside of school he belongs to the Colrain Community Church and is an active member of the youth group. That is a pretty impressive record for any student.

I guess what I most admire about Colin, though, is his dedication to the daily sport of riding his bicycle from the Gruen home in Heath center to Mohawk Trail Regional School, exactly 9.6 miles door to door. His fastest time is 23 minutes, but it generally takes him 26 minutes to travel down the hill and along Route 2 to the high school. He leaves home every morning at approximately 7 AM, winding his way down the mountain. During the day Colin leaves his bicycle in the boys' locker room for safekeeping. His father drops his school bag at Mohawk on his way to work, and after school Justin Lively gives him a ride back up the hill to Heath. It is not surprising that Colin has plans to someday open a bike travel agency based in Australia!



COLIN GRUEN ARRIVES AT MOHAWK
(Photo by Sue Silvester)

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PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

Percolation Tests

Dawn Peters reports that there were five repairs conducted in August and September. All passed. Perc testing has been suspended until April, except for repairs.

Building Permits

No building permits were issued this period.

Deed Transfers

Homer R. and Otilie F. Stafford to Richard A. Kocinski of Easthampton. 53 Ten Acre Lane. \$42,500.

United Bank to William H. and Jean M. Gran. Rowe Road aka Long Hill Road. \$27,500.

Nina M. Blackwell to Homidas A. and Cynthia Ann Lively of Greenfield. Rowe Road. \$10,500.

Irene Iburg to Denise C. and Paul C. Cloutier of Greenfield. Mohawk Estates, lot 18. \$5,000.

General Financial Services, Incorporation to Michael A. Chrisman and Vicki L. Sterling, 8 Burrington Road. \$8,500.

Richard E. and Marlene Housner to Jonathan P. Diamond and Dana L. Blackburn, 22 Hosmer Road. \$129,000.

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MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH INSURANCE

by State Senator Jane M. Swift

As many elderly residents are aware, a proposition has been made by Blue Cross and Blue Shield to dramatically increase Medex insurance rates. In response to the recent proposal regarding Medicare Supplement Insurance rates, I have joined together with Massachusetts legislators to sign a resolution attempting to block the increase.

The Division of Insurance has received the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts proposal requesting permission to increase rates on several "Medigap" programs in 1997. On September 9th, the Senate adopted a resolution stating its strong opposition to raising Medex premiums. The resolution has been sent to the Commissioner of the Division of Insurance, Linda Ruthardt. This official document urges the Commissioner to reject the rate increases which have been proposed by Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The Senate resolution reflects my deep personal concern that, if approved, this change could cause great hardship to many elderly consumers.

The proposed 20-30% Medex rate increase is of particular concern to the large number of Medicare subscribers who live on fixed incomes. These individuals depend on a variety of Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance programs to protect their health. Constituents have expressed the fear that if the proposed increase is accepted they would be forced to choose between losing insurance coverage and paying for daily necessities. No citizen should be forced to make that choice.

I am extremely concerned about the impact which a rate increase could have on the lives of elderly citizens in Western Massachusetts. I will closely follow the progress of the proposal as it is under consideration by the Division of Insurance. Massachusetts law requires that public hearings be held in order to consider all opinions before a decision on the rate increase may be made. Throughout September and October, interested parties will be given the opportunity to express their concerns in written and oral testimony. This issue must be carefully considered by the Division of Insurance before approving or rejecting the Blue Cross and Blue Shield proposal later this fall.

In signing the Massachusetts Senate resolution, I have clearly expressed my opposition to the proposal which attempts to raise Medex insurance rates. As another beautiful autumn descends upon Western Massachusetts, I will diligently continue my efforts to represent the voices of elderly constituents in this important matter.



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EVENING ENRICHMENT CLASSES

The Mary Lyon Education Fund is sponsoring a series of Evening Enrichment classes at Mohawk Trail Regional High School this fall. It is still possible to sign up for Helping Teens with Postponement and Abstinence cosponsored by the Mohawk Valley Health Education Services on October 16; Marilyn Hickok Zelwian's six session class in Beginning Pastels beginning October 30; Bonnie Wodin's four session class on Herb Garden Design beginning Monday, November 4; and a second session of Introduction to Windows and Microsoft Works beginning November 6. Registration forms which include full information can be picked up at the Heath Library. For additional questions, call Pat Leuchtman at 337-4316.

These classes are supported, in part, by a grant from the Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont/Hawley, Heath, Plainfield and Shelburne Cultural Councils, local agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



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HEATH ENTERPRISE COUNCIL NEWS

The HEC has been meeting every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM in the Community Hall. People are picking up the HEC's gray and burgundy pamphlets listing businesses in town, and are responding by calling for more information, or buying products directly from Heath businesses. The Council also had a booth at the Heath Fair, where fairgoers could see some of our work, enter the 50/50 raffle, join the HEC, or just talk business.

Discussions at recent meetings have included the possibility of organizing a sale of local artisans' and farmers' products, maybe in conjunction with the Heath Fair, and the creation of a more permanent HEC banner or wooden sign for the booth and other functions. The next meeting is October 16th at 7:30 at the Community Hall and will include a brainstorming session to decide future directions for the Council. Your ideas and input would be most welcome.

If you'd like to join the HEC, the membership fee is \$20 a year which gets you a business listing in the pamphlet (when it's reprinted), and the bi-monthly Heath Herald listing as well as an opportunity to help direct the Council's future plans. For members wishing to renew their membership, the fee is due by October 15th. All membership dues can be mailed to HEC at P. O. Box 27, Heath, MA 01346.

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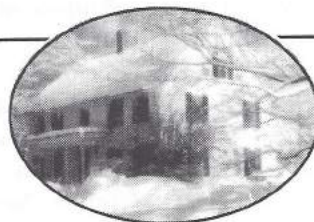
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MILESTONES

by Edith C. Royer

Born August 4, a son, Rory Jordan, to Betsy Reilley-Mathews and David P. Mathews of Westford, MA, grandson of Pat and Henry Leuchtman, of Heath, Dennen and Randy Reilley of Sharon, MA and Irene Mathews of Newburyport, MA.

Born July 25, a son, Tucker Matthew Jenkins, to Robin (Law) and Thomas Jenkins, West Barnstable, MA, grandson of Ruth and Russ Johnson of Heath, Marilyn and Robert Law of Florida and Malcolm Adams of West Barnstable, MA.

Born July 19, a daughter, Evelyn Elizabeth Whiteman, to Temple Annette (Leighton) Whiteman and David B. Whiteman of Heath, MA.

M. Elizabeth (Whitehead) Eldridge of Heath and St. Louis, MO died August 4, 1996 at the Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield. She was born in Boston, MA September 12, 1913, the daughter of Alice G. and Samuel Whitehead. She had been a summer resident of Heath for 50 years. She was a member of the Heath Historical Society. Her husband, Reverend Elson Eldridge died in 1979. Survivors include three sons, Elson Eldridge, Jr. of Heath and Merrimac, NH, Steven Eldridge of New London, CT and Mark T. Eldridge of Burlington, VT, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. A celebration of life service was held in the Heath Church with burial in the Heath Center Cemetery.

Douglas C. Crowningshield of Heath died at home August 31, 1996. He was a self-employed logger and a seasonal employee of the Heath Highway Department. He enjoyed hunting and snowmobiling. Survivors include his wife, the former Diane Betit, a daughter Lisa Marie and a son Jonathan Charles both at home, his father of Rowe and his mother of Lake City, FL, three sisters, Linda Stickney of Dunnellon, FL, Sandy Sprague of Whitingham VT and Heidi Griswold of Charlemont, a brother Steve Crowningshield of Heath, his stepmother Jeanette Crowningshield of Rowe, his stepfather John Powell of Lake City, FL, a stepsister Debbie Crowning-

shield of Heath and two stepbrothers, Bob Belval of Heath and Daryl Belval of Halifax, VT and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. Services were held in the Heath Union Church with burial in the North Heath Cemetery.

Joseph Louis Giard, 78, of Route 8A, died September 30, 1996 at Charlene Manor Extended Care Facility in Greenfield. He was born in Easthampton on November 15, 1917, the son of Joseph A. and Melvina (Chagnon) Giard. He was a World War II Army veteran. Prior to retirement in 1980 he worked as a supervisor at the former Kendall Mills in Griswoldville. He was a member of the St. Josephs Parish in Shelburne Falls. He was also a member of the Shelburne Falls American Legion Post 135, the Ashfield Rod and Gun Club and the Old Timers Club in Colrain. His wife, the former Mildred Bruffee, died in 1986. Survivors include two sons, Joseph A. of Wasilla, Alaska, and Robert A. of Colrain, six daughters, Mary L. Howe of Heath, Kathleen A. Phelps of Colrain, Phyllis E. Thane of Heath, Linda R. Giard of Greenfield, Arlene M. Gazza of Jacksonville, VT, three brothers, David of South Hero, VT, Victor of Colchester, VT and Emilie of Melbourne, FL, two sisters, Alice Gilbert of Colrain and Germaine Lively of Easthampton, 17 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews. Services were held at St. Josephs Church with burial in the Heath Center Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Mary Lyon Education Fund, P. O. Box 184, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370; all donations will be designated for the playground and equipment at the new Heath Elementary School.

THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone that helped in any way to make my surprise party such a huge success.

Thank you for the gifts, cards, flowers, food and your company; also for all the hard work, especially for keeping it a secret. It is greatly appreciated and I will always remember it. Best wishes to all.

Edith Royer

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Movie Rentals - 2 for the price of 1 on Tuesdays & Wednesdays

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| • Wine | • Chips | • Ice Cream | • Cough Syrup |
| • Liquor | • Pretzels | • Frozen Foods | • Aspirin |
| • Soda | • Popcorn | • Breads | • Bandages |
| • Cheeses | • Crackers | • Meats | • and more |

Deli Case • General Groceries
Snacks • Sunday Papers

Video Tapes & VCR Rentals • Gasoline • Diesel • Kerosene
Worms and Crawlers • Blue Seal Feeds
Nuts, Bolts, Nails, General Hardware • Brookville Gloves

HOURS: Monday - Saturday 8 am - 7 pm
Sunday - 10 am - 7 pm

Providing Service to the Hilltowns since 1913