



VOLUME 19 NUMBER 3

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1997

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

50¢

SAWYER HALL CENTENNIAL

by Pat Leuchtman

Last year the Heath Free Public Library enjoyed 15 minutes of national fame when a National Public Broadcasting newscast counted it as one of the most heavily used public libraries per capita in Massachusetts. This was no surprise to us in Heath where we are proud of our intellectual tradition, proud of our recognition of the value of reading for entertainment and instruction, and proud of our insistence that learning continues all our lives.

This year we are celebrating the centennial of Sawyer Hall which was built in 1897 to house the library that had been operating out of H. Kirk Smith's living room since 1893 when the state Free Public Library Commission gave \$100 to buy the first selection of books. Felicia Emerson Welch, who was born in Heath and returned to summer here in 1897 after the death of her husband, was enthusiastic about the construction of a library building. She and her sisters made contributions to the library and got a relative, Ellsworth Sawyer of Phillipston, to donate \$500 to the project. The rest of the \$1400 cost was covered by other contributions, including \$400 from the Town of Heath to purchase a fireproof vault for town records and a room for town officers. Later an addition to the original 36 x 28 foot building was used as a dining room and a hall used by the Grange.

From those small beginnings the library has grown and grown. After the renovation of Sawyer Hall from 1978 to 1980 the Grange space was given up, the library's space was doubled, but it is hard to think that the library ever seemed spa-

cious in the early '80s because more and more shelving has been added to accommodate the still growing collection. Currently, our librarian, Laurie Wheeler Burrington oversees a collection of over 17,000 books, audio and video tapes.

In addition to the Library's own collection, the Bookmobile comes every nine weeks. With the help of volunteers Don Dekker, Alli Thane, Terri Pettengill and Helen Mackie, Laurie returns and picks out another 500 books on temporary loan.

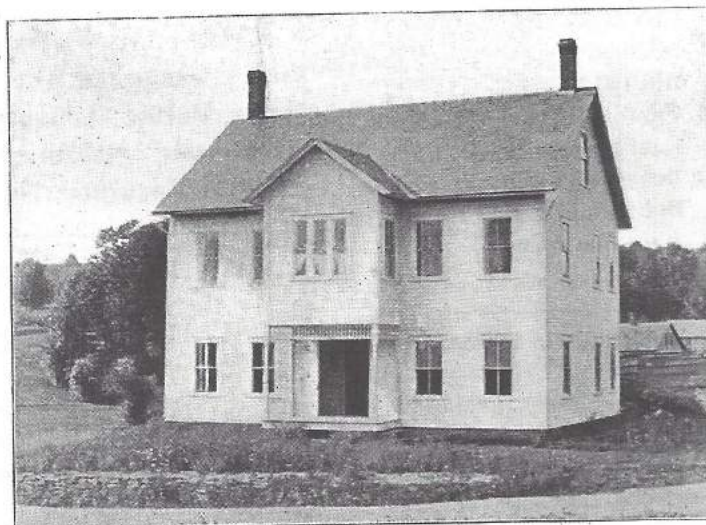
The Library is heavily used. The latest official statistics (for FY 1996) give the population of Heath as 725, but notes that the Library has 753 registered borrowers, some 207 of whom are non-residents. The Heath collection draws patrons from neighboring towns, as does the reputation of our helpful librarians. An average of 114 people visit the Library each week, most for recreational reading: best sellers, mysteries, recent novels; some for instruction and self-improvement from school homework assignments to books on health, gardening, crafts and home improvement. Patrons also have access to Interlibrary Loan, a well-used service.

Over the past 10 years video and audio tapes have been added in greater numbers to the collection. Most of

the books on tape have been purchased with Council on Aging Funds, although our librarian says that they have become very popular with people who spend a lot of time in their cars, whether commuting every day, or taking an occasional long trip and with those who want to listen to a story instead of music while they cook dinner or tend to other household chores.

There have been changes at the Library over the past 100 years. The first librarian, H. Kirk Smith, never

(Continued on page 3)



HEATH FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY ca. 1897

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On behalf of the Town of Heath, we would like to publicly express our appreciation to Richard Giard for hand delivering the Annual Town Reports to the residents of Heath.

We understand it required a great deal of time and effort to do so in time for Annual Town Meeting. In addition, we appreciate the fact that by doing so you saved the Town a great deal of expense by not having to mail them.

Again, thank you Richard for your efforts to serve the Town.

Signed,

Hilma Sumner, Chair, Board of Selectmen
F. Rollo Kinsman and Eileen A. Tougas

CABLE FARM PROTECTED

Richard Hubbard, Assistant Commissioner of Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture has informed Jack and Beverly Cable that their Burnt Hill Blueberry Farm has been nominated to be forever protected as open space and a farm. The Agricultural Land Preservation Committee approved the Farm under the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program.

Not only is the lowbush blueberry a unique crop in Massachusetts, but the magnificent views and the historical site on the property warranted its being preserved according to Commissioner Jay Healy.

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Del and Bob Viarengo and Pegge and Dave Howland hosted the Second Annual Heath Invitational Tennis Tournament on Saturday afternoon, July 19. Twenty-seven players participated in a round robin on three local courts. It was a fun time followed by awards to the top four players and a pot luck supper.

Olga Peters, daughter of Beverly Thane Cable of Heath graduated cum laud from Alfred University in Alfred, NY with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. Olga is now working at the College for International Training in Brattleboro, VT.

Kenneth Thane, son of David and Phyllis Thane of Heath graduated from the University of MA with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Biology. Ken is now working for the New England Power Company.

Diane Keyes Thane, wife of James Thane of Knott Road received an Associates Degree in Business from Greenfield Community College and is working for the Franklin Medical Center.

Kevin R. Duda, son of Ronald and Karen (Stetson) Duda of Whately graduated June 14 from Frontier Regional School. Kevin was Valedictorian of his class. Graduation exercises were held outside under the big top on the grounds of Yankee Candle International in Whately. Kevin is attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University at Daytona Beach, FL. His future plans are to become an Astronautal Engineer. Kevin is the grandson of Dot and Ken Stetson of Heath.

Jack Cable's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Cable of Cape Cod recently spent two weeks at Burnt Hill Farm.

Soile and Majha - two teenage girls from Finland are the guests of Beverly and Jack Cable during the month of July.

OUR COVER

The picture of the Heath Free Public Library was taken from the "Ninth Report of the Free Public Library Commission of Massachusetts" published in 1899 at Boston. It is "Public Document No. 44."

RAY'S OF INTEREST

by R. C. Pettengill

What has two words that start with "C" and should be burned if it keeps winding up in the hole?
Answer: First Word - Credit; Second Word - Card.

A credit card is a nice thing to have if you know how to add before you have to subtract and have some idea what the difference is between want and need.

(Continued from page 1)

dreamed of video taped instruction and feature movies, much less a library computer that gives access to the card catalogs of other libraries as well as the Internet. However, the library is still a place to meet and chat with neighbors. It is still the place to find out about local meetings and events.

The Library Trustees and the Friends of the Heath Free Public Library (FOL) are celebrating this important anniversary. As usual there will be a summer reading program for children with prizes (book store gift certificates) donated by the FOL; this year there will also be a special party for the children.

The FOL will have their usual Book Sale and Raffle at the Heath Fair; this year they will also be selling handsome canvas book bags with a representation of Sawyer Hall designed by Frederick Burrington.

The FOL is also sponsoring a float (of one kind or another) for the Parade at the Heath Fair. All young library patrons should look for a sign up sheet at both the Library and Peters Store if they want to participate. Marchers are asked to dress as their favorite literary character.

On August 30, the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend, the Library Trustees and FOL are sponsoring a gala evening at the Community Hall including a pot luck dinner and theatrical entertainments! Mark your calendars. Jennifer Giandalone will perform a portion of *Belle of Amherst*, a one woman play about Emily Dickinson and Bob Gruen is helping to organize a selection of play readings, drawing on programs that were mounted in the Community Hall in the past. Look in the Library for more information if you are interested in performing.

This fall the Friends of the Library will also put out a newsletter, with the hope that this might become an annual project.

As the Heath Free Public Library stands on the threshold of its second hundred years, indeed as we all stand on the brink of a new millennium, the Trustees are planning for the future. They are busy creating a Long Range Plan which will identify the library's needs and help chart its path into the future. It will also make it possible to apply for grant funding which require a Long Range Plan. Patrons will recall that a recent survey was taken to help with this project.

Librarian Laurie Wheeler Burrington says it is obvious that the major need and challenge for the future is space.

Don Dekker is continually weeding the collection to make way for new and more needed and useful books, but we are always running short of shelf space, work space, and meeting space.

Laurie is also hoping to add a CD ROM to the computer so that she can provide patrons with up-to-date encyclopedias and other reference materials in a very convenient and cost-effective way.

Get ready to join us for the Sawyer Hall Centennial Celebration. We'll see you at the Fair and at the special evening theatrical.

HEATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL EVENTS SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 1997

3:30 - 5:30 P.M.

Old Town House Museum open for viewing
in Heath Center

Solomon Temple Barn Museum open for viewing
at the Fairgrounds

THE SUPPER - 5:30 P.M.

The Historical Society Annual Meeting and supper this year will be held in the new Heath Elementary School on Jacobs Road. It will be a buffet supper and will cost \$6.50 per person, which can be paid at the door. But we **MUST** know how many are coming. Please call Pegge Howland at (413) 337-4980 to make a reservation.

For many years we have had pot-luck suppers that were very successful, but we thought people might enjoy a change or would like to sample the fine cooking of Gail Hall which is becoming legendary. Also the school has better facilities for a speaker and slide presentations.

We hope you like the changes we've introduced this year and look forward to seeing many more of you on August 24th. Remember, you don't have to be a member to come to our Annual Meeting and supper. We welcome everyone - particularly Heath residents.

ANNUAL MEETING - 6:30 P.M.
MICHAEL COE, SPEAKER - 7 P.M.

The Annual Meeting this year is going to be held on Sunday, August 24th in the Heath School! That's the week after the Heath Fair. The Board of Directors decided on this date so that we could have Dr. Michael Coe speak to us about the new book he's working on. The title of his talk will be "The Line of Forts: The Massachusetts Frontier in the Mid-18th Century", and it will be illustrated with slides.

Michael taught Anthropology at Yale University for 34 years and is the author of over 13 books, the latest of which is "The True History of Chocolate" which he wrote with his late wife, Sophie. We are very proud and fortunate to have him as our speaker!

REMEMBER

NEW PLACE - Heath School

NEW DATE - August 24th

NEW FORMAT - Buffet Supper

Please call for a reservation - 337-4980

HEATH FAIR NEWS

by Robert Gear

With the 1997 Fair just a few weeks away everything points toward a successful, enjoyable experience. The grounds and utilities are all ready and repairs and new projects are going ahead as planned.

Driving by the fairground you will notice that the sheep barn has a new roof and new coat of paint. Next year we will continue this effort, replacing the roof on the adjacent cattle barn and repainting it as well.

By Fair time we will have completed the rail and board fences near the silo. Work has continued on the old barn where the food is served. I have just finished a new pantry at the north end of the food concession; this will provide storage for food, condiments and paper goods as well as provide a niche for some of the refrigeration units.

During June the Fair received several useful donations: from the Kinsmans on Hosmer Road West we got an immaculate twenty-four foot trailer which will be used as performers' dressing room and possible administrative space. Additionally, we have received some excellent refrigerators to replace some of the worn out ones used in the kitchen.

Volunteers who work in the kitchen will appreciate the cool air intake and fans which will be operating during Fair time. The kitchen has also been fitted with new lockable doors for overnight security.

Work continues in the new workshop which I am constantly improving. We need donations of floor mounted woodworking tools such as a table saw, radial arm or cutoff saw and anything similar in sound working condition for which of course the donor may receive a tax break.

A new coating of tar was spread on the roof and although there are still a few leaks it is a great improvement. I have started to cover the old barn with new siding and hopefully that project will be finished by spring and include a new coat of paint so we'll have a red barn and silo.

Eventually the entire barn and silo area will be landscaped with shrubs and flowers. Bonnie Wooden is busily planning this phase of the project.

John Henry has as usual lined up a terrific array of musical talent; this year's entertainment will also include some performers wandering the midway including bagpiper Eric Goodchild who was immensely popular last year.

This year we have attempted to have a wider variety of food concessions while trying to avoid those that might conflict with our own menu. Since this is one of the fair's chief sources of income we hope you will continue to support us at our traditional location in the old barn.

Something new this year will be a scything demonstration hosted by Jack Cable. I have held off mowing a half acre of the field just north of the livestock judging barn for this purpose.

Another attraction will be a massed exhibit of over twenty-five vintage John Deere tractors as well as peripheral equipment. Besides being on display throughout the Fair we anticipate that they will be included in the parade.


Speaking of the parade we are pulling all stops to insure the best one we've had in a long time with several delightful surprises to entertain you.

We still need all the volunteer help we can get to get things ready on time. There is a work party every Wednesday evening right up 'til the Fair. Anyone who can't make it on Wednesdays but would still like to help can come over anytime. Just call me the day before. There is plenty to do.

Lots of extra help will be needed during the Fair to pick up trash and immediately after the Fair either Sunday evening or during the day on Monday to pick up the grounds. Anyone turning up to help with the cleanup will be treated to burgers, soda and ice cream. This is something that was traditionally done after every Fair until recent years.

Besides my regular responsibilities, this year I am managing the horse show. The show is shaping up very well indeed with many people supporting us with the cash donations we need to make the show a success. I still need at least half a dozen volunteers throughout the day to open and close the gates to the arena in one or two hour shifts. Call me at 337-4844 if you can do this. Also, I will need a few helpers, preferably with a pickup truck, from about 6 to 8 AM to ferry tables, equipment and supplies to the horse show area and help set up the trail class obstacles.

Finally, I have to talk about something I have been avoiding and that is how much all of us involved with the Heath Agricultural Society miss Mike Peters and the energy and concern he contributed to the Fair. This will be a difficult time for all of us, but I think we all agree that the best memorial tribute we can offer is to make this the best Fair to date and above all to enjoy it as much as Mike always did.

 Frederick M. Burrington Artist
Drybrush Watercolor
Pen and Ink Drawing
Commissions Taken

Rt. 8A, Charlemont, Ma. 01339 (413) 337-4426

**Shepherd
Excavation**



Rte. 8A, Heath, MA

(413) 337-4215

HEATH PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Suzanne Crawford

Happy summer to all! I hope that you are able to recapture at least a little of the magic that this season holds for children: endless carefree sunny days, the miracle of gardens and bugs, the pride of increasing accomplishments in swimming, and more.

We are pleased to announce that we received notification in June that we have been re-accredited through the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs (NAECP). Our continuing commitment to provide a high quality, developmentally appropriate program to our young children is reflected in this honor. The NAECP provides strict national standards for quality programs, evaluating many areas including health and safety, staff interactions with children and families, curriculum and materials, and staff training.

This is a time for "behind the scenes" work at the preschool. The district offers a wide variety of inservice workshops for staff, and I look forward to the opportunity to expand my skills. I update the parent handbook and prepare for fall registration. We expect to hear about the state grant that provides the bulk of the preschool's funding in late August. I have also been working on the playground committee, and we hope to have a climbing structure in place by mid-September. The Heath Fair fund raiser will be shared by the preschool and the Heath School Community Partnership again this year. It will include a children's raffle with a wonderful array of prizes generously donated by many area people, as well as the ever-popular dunking booth. We will also sell cold drinks and trail mix. We hope to see you there!

I have begun working on the pre-registration for the 1997-98 school year. All young children who are either 3 or 4 years old by August 31, 1997 are eligible to attend. I have contacted all families that I know about with eligible children, but do not want to miss any children. I will send more information at the end of August. I can be reached through the school (337-5307) or at home (339-4265). We are looking forward to another great year!

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Hadley
584-8324

**Vision
Showcase**

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

HEATH UNION CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Colin Lucid

Psalm 34:4 says: "I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."

This verse of Scripture can be a great help to us when our fears sometimes overwhelm us. This verse also points to the fact that it is God who delivers us from our fears. God is always available to help us through our fears and difficult times and asks us to call on Him.

We had a great Vacation Bible School. Thanks to all of you who brought your children. We enjoyed the week with them. The Sugar on Snow was a successful night for our church. Thanks to all of you who came. We are now having Bible study at the parsonage on Thursday nights at 7 PM. This is a chronological teaching of the Bible from Genesis to Matthew. All are welcome.

Have you ever questioned what happened to the ten commandments or if they are still relevant today? I will be teaching a series on the ten commandments in the fall during the morning service. I will be answering these questions and others. Please come and join us.

The Heath Church Sunday Morning Schedule is as follows:

Sunday School: 9 AM. We will continue throughout the summer.

Morning Worship: 10 AM. We are currently learning from the book of Mark.

Youth Group: 7 PM at the parsonage. We will continue throughout the summer.

All are invited to join our church family during these times. Pastor Colin's office is at the parsonage. Please call 337-5755 or just come by if you should need to speak with him for any reason.

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LIBRARY LINES

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

Sometimes things take adjustment. Right now we, both library staff and library patrons, are adjusting to our new book drop. The book drop was given to us by the Franklin County Technical School, and installed with the help of the Dole Brothers' crew during Sawyer Hall's recent building alterations. We thank both very much. The Book Return is located at the corner of the building's ramp.

The decision to change from an indoor Book Return to an outdoor Book Return was not lightly made. Several incidents have occurred across the state involving indoor book drops in which library buildings and collections were either severely damaged or lost in their entirety. State recommendations were either to go back to outdoor book drops to eliminate the danger or to install an indoor self-contained metal-encased fireproof box. The latter is more convenient but quite expensive. The Board of Library Trustees and I pondered how best to address this dilemma. In this situation, the outdoor Book Return seemed to be the best solution.

The drawback for our patrons? Audios and Videos CANNOT be returned in the outdoor Book Return. These must be returned directly to the library during library hours or dropped off during post office hours with Marcella. Thanks, Marcella! Extremes of heat and cold, as we know Heath is quite capable of providing, can damage both.

On a brighter note, we have begun subscriptions to several new magazines, The Herb Companion, Home PC, Organic Gardening and The World and I. The World and I is a comprehensive current events magazine. As well as good reading, I think it will make an excellent research resource.

Our summer programs, "Celebrate Read!" and "Celebrate Write!" are going well with over 40 children signed up to read or write their way through the summer. Julie Rocke gave a delightful presentation on July 19 about illustrating and children's books and there is a bookbinding field trip in the works. The summer programs will end with an Open House and a party at the library on August 25 at 7 PM showcasing the summer's projects. Participants and their parents are invited. The Friends of the Library are helping us to celebrate with ice cream and gift certificates to Boswell's Books.

The library is also entering a period of research and development of its Long Range Plan which will result in a thoroughly researched portrait of our library and our community's library needs. One of the initial steps is to get an accurate portrayal of library use by conducting a Library Use Survey. We will do one both this summer and again in the fall. We ask that you, the library patrons, please be patient with us as we conduct our library survey, and to answer the surveys as candidly and accurately as possible. Our thanks for your help.

HEATH FAMILY LITERACY NETWORK

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

The Heath Family Literacy Network is a "voluntary program designed to bring families and neighbors together in an effort to promote family literacy". Hefty goals, but ones cheerfully decided upon as a mission statement by the volunteers who are making The Heath Family Literacy Network a reality.

Heath has received grant money from the MA Department of Education as a pilot expansion site through the Franklin County and North Quabbin Family Network. According to Sharleen Moffatt, the award was \$125,521 of which Heath, as the pilot project for West County, received \$14,874 or 11.9% of the grant. Because it is a two year grant, Heath will next year receive \$12,648 of \$106,736 available for its program.

A group of parents and community members began meeting in April of 1997 and have designed and tailored this program to the Heath community which according to one of the program's volunteers, Michelle Howe, "is designed to offer books to all children birth to age three in Heath, to encourage an early start on reading".

Parents are first introduced to the program beginning with a visit from one of the group's volunteers bearing a basket of books and information. The visits will begin shortly after their child's birth, followed up with a visit and books every six months until age three, ending with a one year subscription to a children's magazine. "It should end up that every child should have a library of his or her own before entering school", said Ms. Howe.

According to volunteer Jill Kuehl, they hope to be able to give information on offerings from the school, the library, and various community services and possibly connect parents with other parents. "It is a way", said Judy Clark, who is also volunteering her time for this group, of "helping families feel connected to the community". The group, at this time numbering about 10, expects that home visits will begin in September or October of this year.

If anyone is interested in more information or in volunteering Jill Kuehl may be contacted at 337-8753.

There will also be information at the Heath Fair, as there will be a display in the Exhibit Hall featuring their newly created brochure, bookmarks and a raffle.

HEATH SCHOOL KITCHEN

Selling: Cinnamon Buns (\$5.00/dozen or \$2.50/half dozen)

Oven-Ready Pizza (Cheese--\$6.00; Pepperoni--\$7.00)

All items available frozen; call ahead for freshly-baked.

337-5307 GAIL HALL

The cafeteria is open to the Community for lunch at just \$2.25!
Join us at noon. If you can, call a day ahead or that morning.

SCYTHING

by Jack Cable

The Dickinson Farm, with Howard and Ralph Dickinson and their dog "Lucky" as hosts, was the scene of the second Scything Event.

The June evening saw twenty-five Heathens and Vermonters observe or try their hand at haying as done in the "good old days" - using a scythe to cut the grass. Heathens using the tools were Jake Tripp, Ray Pettengill, Carroll Stowe, Eva Pazmino, Jack and Beverly Cable and the Dickinsons. Vermonters were represented by Edi Fenton of Halifax and Steve Morse of Whitingham.

Beverly Cable organized the event last year for her library (Whitingham Free Public Library) in Jacksonville, VT. She provided a drink for these events which was consumed in the hayfields in this bygone era, to quench their thirst. It's called "Switchel". The recipe is:

1 cup brown sugar
1 cup cider vinegar
1/2 cup maple syrup
2 quarts of water
1 teaspoon ginger

Next June's event will be in Vermont. Plans are underway to have a scything demonstration at the Heath Fair. Watch for details.



EVA PAZMINO HAYING AT THE DICKINSON FARM

(Photo by Jack Cable)



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

OBSERVATIONS OF MY LIFE

As I make some sort of use of my time and effort I get great pleasure recalling some memorable days. Days which would seem most mundane to some. I've most enjoyed seeing the progress of the way farming has been done over the past 60 years and some ways are an improvement and others questionable.

It seems that life was so much more simple when a fine team of horses let down a piece of hay in the morning and perhaps later in the day the tedder would be used to fluff the hay and we could usually plan on three good drying days to get it ready for the barn. We didn't have a hay loader till some folks were using a hay baler.

I remember Dad trying to find a hay loader, but they were very hard to find. I always enjoyed pitching hay up to my Dad. A team, wagon and a pitch fork were a lot less trouble to keep going. It was not, to be sure, the most pleasant job to have to put on a load of hay in an orchard among the trees and on side hills as we have done many years ago. The hay machines of today have become rather complicated. It seems the simplest way to deal with a hay crop today is the wrapped round bale. The hay is cut with a mower conditioner, allowed to wilt a bit and baled with a round baler and enclosed in a plastic film to create silage. The bale is stacked in an easily accessible area to be hauled to the feed area later. With an appropriate area to roll the bale out to feed it makes for a simple way to put this roughage in front of cattle. With square bales it should be as dry as possible but with silage bales it's the other way. To be sure dealing with a hay crop this way calls for some specialized equipment. Besides the mowing equipment and baler, a wrapper unit is needed, a tractor with 2 spear units to pick up and transport bales to the wrap area and a bale grabber to move the bales after wrapping. This device hydraulically squeezes the round bale to lift and carry it to the storage area. All surfaces of the grabber must be smooth to prevent damage to the wrap. Either the grabber or the spear is used to put the bales in the feed ground.

Much planning needs to be done to create the proper feed ground. A sheltered hard surface is a must to allow access with the transport unit and a protected space for the animals. Also, it's best to be able to get rid of animal waste every few weeks. This type of feeding system holds much promise and is less labor intensive than alternate methods.



WILD RAMBLINGS

by BILL LATTRELL

Steep terrain is no stranger to these parts, and anyone who wants to really experience the wilds of Heath should spend some time challenging their legs in these crag filled areas. One fine summer morning I found myself scaling a steep ledge in southeast Heath. The lichen covered rocks on the southeastern hill were a mottled gray and green color. Foot and hand holds weren't difficult to find, but nonetheless there was a level of exertion needed to climb over the rocky ledges. Each ledge brought a new discovery. On some I would find unusual plants, on the next a porcupine den, and on some even evidence of bobcat. At one good resting place with a clear view through the tree tops I stopped to reflect on my surroundings. An accident of nature had created an area protected from man due to its inaccessibility!

Somewhere in the neighborhood of twelve to twenty millennia ago our landscape in New England was changed forever. A sheet of ice, as thick as a mile, spread from north to south scouring the lands of the area and wreaking havoc with the natural world. The glaciers moved slowly, taking thousands of years to advance, and thousands more to retreat. During their advance they scraped off mountains, moved rocks and soil hundreds of miles, and reshaped every nook and cranny of the region.

The advancement of the glaciers created new landforms such as drumlins and roches moutonees. Drumlins are mountain sized areas of compressed silt, often formed around a bedrock base. They are tear dropped in shape, and can be easily recognized on a U. S. Geological Survey geographical map. The drumlins now support forested plant communities that were often left untouched by human development due to the poor agricultural soils. Another landform created by the advancing glaciers were roches moutonees. We now recognize them as south facing ledges where often the exposed rock can be seen for miles.

Our town is blessed with these landform features. There are some prime examples of these magnificent areas in southeast Heath not far from the Catamount State Forest and Shapiro Conservation Land. These rocky crag areas have been more or less untouched by

man. They are far too vertical, too hard to access, and have little agricultural value to have been worth the trouble of bothering with by our forefathers. Many of these areas have never been logged due to their inaccessibility. It is possible to find virgin trees in some of the areas I am familiar with.

There is one group of roches moutonees not too distant from where I live. I have spent many days over the twenty-five years I have known about them exploring this wonderful area. On one particularly steep and remote section there are a number of large red oak trees, some being close to six feet in diameter. It is mind boggling to see these giant trees clinging to the exposed rock face. The roots wrap themselves around every available crag, gripping the earth with all the tenacity that it can muster. Somehow the shallow pockets of earth provide enough nutrients for the trees to survive. During good acorn years the ledges become particularly difficult to navigate with the marble like acorns covering the narrow ledge paths. Bears, turkey, and deer all put this valuable forage to good use when it is abundant.

Given the southern exposure of these landforms the rock provides valuable heat on a cold winter's day. On more than one occasion I have spotted a bobcat sunning himself on a sunny ledge in this area. It is also the first place to find the earliest vegetation of the spring. The warm rock heats the soil and many spring herbaceous plants thrive in this area. Along one stretch of the ledge in this area Spring brings a sea of wild flowers including blue cohosh, spring beauty, dutchmen's breaches and a beautiful pocket of bloodroot. The many different primary colors of these flowers are made even more colorful by the background of pale green lichen found clinging to the rocky ledge.

These ledgy areas are wonderful places to look for unusual ferns, allies, and herbaceous plants. Their isolated nature provides a natural habitat that goes protected by virtue of its difficult-to-reach location.

Due to the craggy nature of the plucked bedrock, any small crevices, some almost deep enough to be called a cave, can be found in these areas. Many different animals take advantage of these ready made domiciles, but none quite so readily as the porcupine. Believe me when I say that these areas are not a good place to bring your dog. In one small area of the nearby roches moutonees I counted twenty porcupines in a very brief visit about ten years ago. The proky dens have all the signs of

(Continued on page 11)

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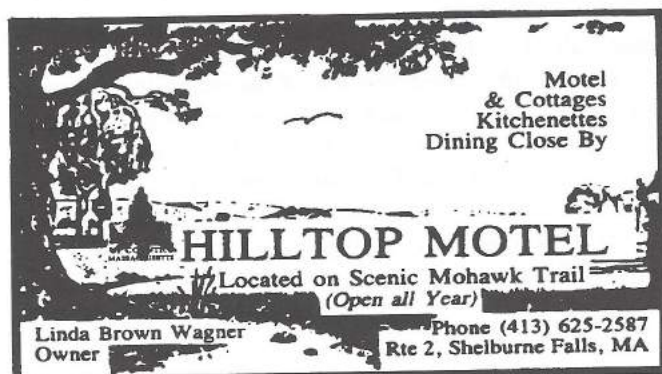
(Continued from page 8)

having been used for many years, including a floor of porcupine droppings more than a foot thick.

Bats can also be commonly found in some of the larger crags. In fact, for some of the nonmigrating varieties, these crags are used as winter domiciles where bats cluster together during hibernation. Dozens, sometimes hundreds of bats will cluster together in order to seek refuge from our harsh New England winter climates.

Exploring these areas can be invigorating. Steep climbs or sharp descents are usually necessary to reach them. Parts of these roches moutonees can be dangerous as narrow ledges and sheer drops can provide the explorer with a real challenge. They are particularly treacherous in winter due to the leaking bedrock water forming very slippery areas of ice and overhanging icicles that can weigh several tons. All of this ice continues to crack the rock and form ever changing micro landscapes along the ledges.

As I sat on my warm rock ledge I realized that all I am experiencing now will one day change again dramatically. The earth will cool, as it has done in cycles for millions of years and glaciers will once again descend upon the landscape. Like a huge eraser the glaciers will wipe the slate clean so that nature can, once again, rejuvenate the earth.



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Green Thoughts

by

ELSA BAKALAR

A SUMMER EVENING IN THE GARDEN

If you want to see people at their shining best, watch them as they walk among the flowers in a garden.

A small newspaper ad and a few invitations brought more than 70 people to our hilltop garden one evening in mid-July and provided an opportunity to raise some money for our Heath Library, now celebrating 100 years in Sawyer Hall.

"An evening?" Yes. Of course. Billed as "A Summer Evening in the Garden", it suggested that carefree season, the calm that comes at the end of the day, and a promise of flowers. Fortune smiled, and delivered all three.

A reflected sunset illuminated the scene. Flowers and people were suddenly made more beautiful, and I realized, not for the first time, that a garden may be enhanced by having people in it and that, just as much as buildings, gardens need to be inhabited. The playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan, best known for his comedies of manners, is supposed to have addressed a young lady (some 200 years ago, remember) with the invitation, "Won't you come into the garden? I would like my roses to see you."

I had always considered that to be an unnecessary bit of affectation but now I think he may have been on to something. The visitors looked at the flowers and liked what they saw. Is it too far-fetched to imagine that the flowers, too, were well pleased?

I had said that I would answer questions "until dusk turned to dark". And I did. As it got darker, we were able to see a so-called night-blooming phlox (not a phlox at all but a little curiosity with the extraordinary name of *Zaluzianskya capensis*). We saw it open its starry flowers to the evening sky and, even later, were able to find our way among darkened paths by the gleaming white of the phlox 'Miss Lingard,' the so-called Wedding Phlox, blooming a month late this year.

Two visitors stood before a mass of purple lavender to see how long the color would keep its glow. We heard the last of the bumble bees backing noisily out of snapdragons, and saw the first of the hawk moths appear mysteriously before a near-white daylily. A barred owl began his "who-cooks-for-you" call, and the last of the visitors walked slowly down the hill to their cars.

Editor's Note: A check for \$300 was recently presented to the Heath Library by Elsa Bakalar.



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THE BIG ONE

by Michael D. Coe

When people think about fly fishing, they envision an angler standing in a crystal-clear mountain stream, casting a tiny feathery lure to a trout that probably weighs less than a pound or two. Well, last June I used a fly rod to hook and land the biggest fish I have ever caught in my life (even bigger than the 125 pound hammerhead shark which I landed in Venezuela about eight years ago). The fish in question was a tarpon, known to scientists as *Megalops atlantica*, and to sports writers as "the silver king". It has been rightly described as the ultimate fly rod target.

The tarpon is a fairly primitive fish, a giant relative of such lowly creatures as the herring and the sardine, and is found in tropical waters on both sides of the Atlantic. It has a bucket-like mouth, large eyes, and a powerful body covered with silvery scales the size of silver dollars; it goes berserk when hooked, making one powerful leap after another, and usually throwing the hook. While most American fly rod enthusiasts go to the Florida Keys to try for these monsters, the dream destination is the west coast of Florida between Tampa and Cedar Key. As the shallow waters warm in May and June, schools of really huge tarpon (much larger than those in the Keys, many weighing over 100 pounds) migrate north from nobody knows where, to feed on mullet, pilchards, and other small fish.

The real Mecca for tarpon fanatics is the tiny fishing village of Homosassa, a picturesque community of native "redneck" commercial fishermen near the mouth of the river of that name, about an hour and a half's drive north of Tampa. At the end of the last century, the artist Winslow Homer came here to fish and to paint its moss-festooned live oaks and its palm trees. Not so many years ago, the official fly rod record for tarpon was set here, for a fish that weighed almost (but not quite) 200 pounds. The mere thought of such a catch on a thin, flexible fly rod sets the angler's heart racing.

So there I was in Homosassa in early June, having arranged four days on the water with an experienced tarpon guide, Captain Mike Locklear. I was fairly apprehensive about the prospect of hours of battle with a monster tarpon, as I was suffering from a bad back brought on by a recent and very rough boat ride in the Bahamas; luckily, my doctor had no idea where I was, or what I had planned to do.

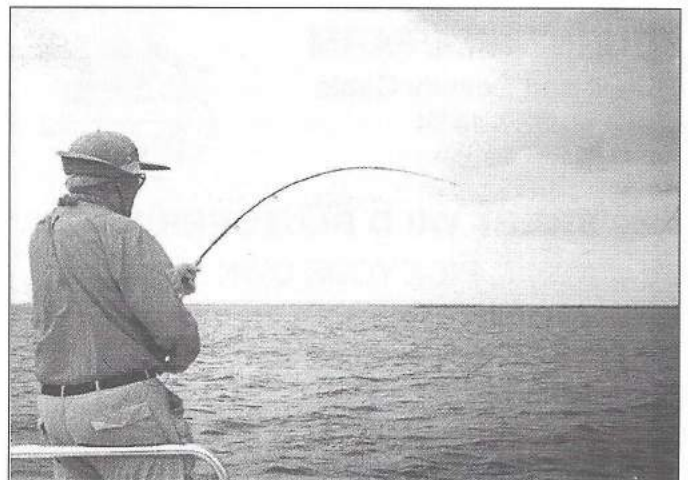
This kind of fishing is pure stalking. It is done from a skiff from the flat deck of which all projecting cleats, etc., have been removed, since these could catch the fly line and break off the fish. Since tarpon have very good hearing and are easily "spooked", the motor is turned off. The guide stands on a raised platform as he silently poles the boat along the shallows trying to spot migrating fish. Mike and I set off each morning before dawn, searching for dark or silvery shapes. I stood near the bow for hours on end, 12-weight rod in my right hand

and the tarpon fly - a feather concoction only 3 inches long - held between the fingers of the left hand. Tarpon travel in "pods", each pod holding anywhere from 3 to 15 fish. Sometimes they approach contentedly, busily seeking the baitfish on which they live, but sometimes they nervously dart about at considerable speed, and spurn whatever fly is tossed at them. They never stay in one place for more than a second, though, so casts have to be fast and accurate. Best of all is when you see them "rolling", coming to the surface to gulp air - this air is taken into their swim bladders, and give them extra oxygen (more about that later). Needless to say, the angler has to stay alert hour after hour. Tarpon fishing is like war - seemingly endless tedium ("hurry up and wait") interspersed with moments of sheer panic, when all hell breaks loose.

During my first three days with Mike, I "jumped" several fish, which in angling jargon means I hooked them, then had the excitement of watching them leap high into the air to throw the hook, crash down with a mighty splash, and take off for freedom. This was more than enough to get the adrenalin going, but in spite of my back, I really wanted to get one of these to the boat.

My fourth day looked disappointing, as the weather was threatening, and the wind had picked up, which made casting any great distance difficult. The cloud cover and the ruffled surface didn't help in spotting fish, either. Mike kept poling, and we went to various known "hot spots" in the area, but we didn't see any tarpon. He was in frequent radio contact with other guides out on the water, but few of the other anglers had even "jumped" any fish during that week, let alone bring one to the boat. By the end of the day I was getting tired, and it was blowing and spitting light rain. It looked fairly hopeless, so I told Mike "Five more minutes, and then let's call it quits". To my surprise, he replied, "All right, but I have a feeling you're going to catch one".

(Continued on page 13)



MIKE COE FIGHTING A HOMOSSASSA TARPON

(Continued from page 12)

No sooner were these words out of his mouth, but six dark shapes could be seen rapidly approaching the boat from the south. Heart in my mouth, I laid out a cast just ahead and to the right of the second fish in the pod (Mike had warned me that the lead fish in a pod is usually "spooky" and should be ignored), then it turned slightly to its left and grabbed the fly! As soon as I felt the line tightening, I set the hook as hard as I could into its concrete-hard maw, and off went the six-foot-long tarpon like an express train - taking monstrous leap after leap as it headed into the distance. All my fly line sped off the reel, followed by several hundred yards of orange-colored backing. My fingers suffered some deep line cuts, but I couldn't have cared less. One more leap, and the creature stopped to rest. A choice now had to be made between two alternatives: 1) I've had my fun, so why not break off the fish now and save my back? 2) get the fish of a lifetime, and to heck with the back. I opted for the later.

It is impossible to fight a fish with too much line out, so Mike fired up the motor and we began chasing it, as I reeled the line madly. The pursuit took us across well over a mile of open water. Once I had got at least part of the fly line back on the reel, I began to put maximum pressure on the tarpon. I had no idea any fish could be so strong. Yet each time that it leaped, it tired itself out, so the more jumps the better. The real trick in beating a tarpon is to keep its head down so that it has no chance to gulp air and renew its strength. Eventually, we cornered the fish near a small island, but my rod was bent double, and I was feeling all of my 68 years. Finally, after 50 minutes of fighting, the fish seemed ready to give up: it turned on its huge side as we brought it near the boat, and Mike touched the leader, which means that it was officially caught. I foolishly thought that my job was largely done.

Just as I was catching my own breath, the tarpon managed to get its head out of the water and take that fatal gulp of energy-giving oxygen - and off it went again. I simply could not believe that any creature on earth could have so much fight left, but I was determined to bring it to the boat once more. The rain was now beating down in earnest, but I didn't care how wet I got or what I was doing to my back.

Another 40 minutes, and we had it once more to boat side - after a battle of 1 1/2 hours, I had landed a fish that Mike estimated from length and girth to be 130 pounds. As he was setting the gaff in its mouth, the line - under tremendous pressure - parted from the leader with a sound like a rifle shot, and off went my fish to fight another day. We would have released it anyway, but it had been legally caught. So I got the "fish of a lifetime" on a fly rod. But was it really the "fish of a lifetime"? Maybe next year, when I return to Homosassa (God willing), I'll get a tarpon to beat this one - perhaps one that will break the 200 pound mark. Who knows? Fly fishermen are truly a crazy lot, and I am as crazy as any of them.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by D. F. Howland

The newly constituted Finance Committee (Fincom) met July 2 at the Town Hall. All were in attendance - Jim Cerone, David Cote, Mike Smead, Brian Vilbon and Dave Howland.

Warrant articles for the Special Town Meeting (STM) which was to be held July 15 were reviewed and supported. The first article was an appropriation of \$16,100 for the funding of technology and playground equipment for the Heath School, \$4,500 of which represented gifts of local supporters. The appropriation has to be voted to access State reimbursement funds of \$11,600. Because of the gifts there is no impact on the tax rate. The other article dealt with the appropriation of \$248,000 for the School Project Account, money which will be paid this fall to the Farmers Home Loan for the Town's mortgage on the Heath School. This vote has to be taken annually until the obligation is paid off. The State's share of that payment, \$197,018, has been received. (The STM subsequently approved both Articles.)

The Fincom reviewed and supported a proposal of the Franklin County Insurance Group to merge with the Hampshire County Insurance Group. Blue Cross rates in particular have been extremely high and the merger will enable the relatively small number of participants in Franklin County to acquire the benefits of Hampshire's larger numbers. The rates of Blue Cross and HMOs will go down. Hampshire will administer the entire program.

A proposed lease of the Heath School to the Mohawk Trail Regional School District was reviewed. A meeting with the School Building Committee, School Committee representatives and School personnel was held later in July and another meeting is scheduled for August 6. The lease arrangement is part of the K-12 Agreement, which provides for the District to maintain all the local schools. The meeting in July also addressed the "Punch List", which are construction details and problems that need to be resolved by August 1.

Dave Howland reported on the status of Foundation Reserve "Pothole" money appropriated by the State the last two years and from which the Town has accessed nearly \$300,000. The Legislature has approved \$15,000,000 for FY 98 to be distributed by the Department of Education. The Town will have to submit an application and see what develops.

The Fincom organized itself with the following assignments:

Jim Cerone is to serve on the Space Task Force and is Secretary of the Fincom. Brian Vilbon is the Fincom's representative for education matters. Mike Smead is the Fincom's liaison to the Highway Department. David Cote is the Fincom's financial and accounting expert. Dave Howland is Chair of the Fincom.

TORNADO!

by Pat Leuchtman

For 50 years the silo and blue roof of the Pazmino barn on Sumner Stetson Road have been important landmarks in Heath. In 15 seconds they disappeared on the evening of July 3 when a tornado ripped across Heath.

According to a story in the Recorder Joe and Melissa Janes of Number Nine Road may have been the first people to see it. Then Russell and Carmen Donelson saw the sky darken and heard a loud sound. They thought a thunderstorm was coming. Carmen went to the back door to go out and take care of the horses, one of which had been running around in circles in the barnyard. She hesitated at the door because the noise was so loud -and then it was gone.

Meantime Russell and his seven year old son Riston stood transfixed at the window as they watched the tornado lift the roof of the big barn, blow down the silo, overturn the haywagon and push up the hood of their old Scout. The barn doors blew down as well as some of the barn windows, but the picnic table and truck parked next to the barn were not touched.

"There was no time to be scared, until later when we thought what could have happened," Carmen said. "It was probably only 15 seconds and the tornado was gone."

When they went out to survey the damage, sections of the barn roof were found scattered over the landscape, the silo was flattened, part of the silo chute was in their yard and the other part was over at Louis Pazmino's yard. Five apple trees were ripped up and three maples, but one old dead apple tree was untouched.

The tornado made a turn as it came from the Donelson's barn to Louis' house where it blew down the garage doors, sucked off the vinyl siding on the back of the house and blew off some roof shingles. Four windows were broken by flying debris.

The tornado then skipped over the hills and touched down at Tom and Claire Rabbitt's house on Sadoga Road when it blew two old maple trees down between the house and the garage. It also tore up the woods around the sugar house right across from the Rabbitts, although the sugar house itself was essentially unharmed.

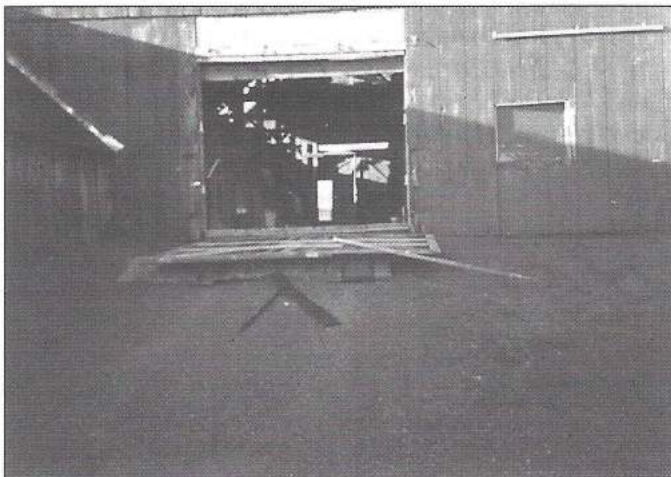
Claire Rabbitt was home alone when she saw the clouds circling and she grabbed her flashlight and prayerbook and went to the cellar. She heard the trees fall and when she came back upstairs to find the power off she also found that the road was blocked. She had to go through what they call "the swamp" to get out to her father's house on 8A to report the damage and get help. Her electricity was out from 6:07 PM until after 3 in the morning, but it took two days before all the debris was finally cleared away.

Fire Chief Mike Smith was home when the tornado hit. "We heard it coming and started down the cellar stairs, but then it was gone. We came back up and it seemed there hadn't been any damage so I went off to my Firemen's meeting." Once at the meeting he got a 911 call about a tree down and went out. "I thought wind had just knocked a tree down. That's when I met Russ Donelson and heard what happened at his house."

Mike explained that a tornado moves very fast, and that it bumps up and down over the ground alternately doing great damage and not touching anything. He got the firemen busy clearing away blown down trees, but it took some time before he learned about the major damage on Sadoga Road.

Tom Rabbitt says his hill seems naked without those two cautious old maples, but is grateful that the damage was confined to the roofs of his house and garage. A brand new roof, he points out, which was replaced just last year.

In spite of the damage at the Donelson's and his place Tom feels that God was really smiling on Heath that day. We got to feel the power of nature, but were kept safe. No one was hurt.



THE BARN DOOR AT THE DONELSON'S WAS BLOWN RIGHT DOWN.



THE DONELSON'S BARN SHOWING THE OVERTURNED HAYWAGON, THE FLATTENED SILO AND THE DAMAGED ROOF.

MARVELOUS MINTS

by Paul Brouthers

When the dog days of mid-summer arrive and the temperature creeps toward uncomfortable, the mints come into their own. Although sometimes scorned by gardeners because of their aggressive habit, mints deserve a place in every garden and in every kitchen.

If given a well fertilized organic soil and enough moisture, most mints are well-behaved. When they do begin to run, it is because they have used up the available nutrients and have decided to move to a better spot. I find that they are easy to pull from where they are unwanted, and as long as I keep them well fed they are pretty polite garden residents.

There are many varieties of mint all belonging to the genus *Mentha*. Mints hybridize readily and there are always new selections on the market. Besides the familiar peppermint and spearmint, there is orange mint and lemon mint, apple, ginger, grapefruit and brandy mint, corsican mint, pineapple mint, even chocolate and lavender mint.

For the home medicine chest and for culinary use, peppermint and spearmint are essential; orange mint is a unique and useful addition.

Peppermint is a warming, spicy herb with a history of medicinal uses. It is an excellent drink when you are ill with the common cold, attenuating many of the symptoms. Nothing is better after the rare circumstance of overindulgent dining than a cup of peppermint tea to settle an upset stomach. It is also an excellent stimulating brew when you must burn the midnight oil, reading or studying perhaps, as it seems to aid concentration yet does not prevent sleep. In fact it is a folk remedy for insomnia.

Spearmint is a gentler version of peppermint with some unique qualities. It seems to be more cooling although it retains much of peppermint's digestive properties. Because spearmint encourages free perspiration, it is an excellent herb for fevers and infections. Its mild relaxant properties make it valuable for restlessness and insomnia. It is also a cooling wash for insect bites and mild sunburn.

For all of their healing qualities, it is in the kitchen that these herbs rise to their highest value. Unfortunately, spearmint usually is relegated to an occasional appearance with a leg of lamb, and maybe once in the early spring with baby peas. Allow me to suggest a few more uses of this wonderful herb.

Spearmint is excellent chopped fresh on almost every type of fruit salad, enhancing sweetness and coolness.

Fresh, by the way, is the way to use spearmint, although the dried herb is good for tea. One of the best iced teas I know is prepared with spearmint in the following way. Brew a pot of your favorite black or green chinese tea and let it cool. Meanwhile gather a large bunch of fresh spearmint, wash it and chop it coarsely

and blend it in the blender or food processor with enough cold water to cover. Strain this water through a cheese cloth or fine screen and add to your cooled tea. Sweeten to taste, ice and enjoy. This can also be done to your favorite herbal tea blend.

For your next summer tea or garden party, blend some finely chopped spearmint with a pound of butter and a couple of tablespoons of granulated sugar. Chill well and serve with your favorite bread or fresh scones.

I must not fail to mention tabouli, a fabulous middle-eastern salad made with bulghar wheat, garlic, lemon, tomato, cucumber and as much spearmint as possible, dressed with oil and vinegar. This has inspired me to try minted tomatoes and cucumbers, both delicious, simple side dishes.

Peppermint has fewer culinary applications. One adaptation of a very ancient Mexican recipe never fails to excite me when those chilly late summer evenings roll around about Fair time. To your next pot of hot chocolate add one cup of coffee in which one large handful of peppermint has been steeped and then removed. A pinch of cayenne and you have a beverage fit for the gods.

Orange mint can be used in a number of the above recipes. It gives a bergamot flavor to black tea and I make an herbal version which has become known among my friends as "Herb Grey".

I hope I have inspired you to get to know a most ancient and esteemed herb. The best mint is the mint fresh cut from the back yard. Who Knows? Maybe you'll even become a mint aficionado. Lavender mint anyone?

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Eileen A. Tougas

Anyone who has been in the center of town can't help but notice that progress is finally being made on the handicapped access project at the Town Hall. Everything is really starting to come together and fall into place. Unfortunately, this project has taken much longer than originally anticipated due to delays in obtaining materials. Unforeseen repairs such as the replacement of rotted sill beams on the base of the porch also had to be reckoned with. Now, with these problems out of the way, the remainder of the work should be accomplished soon.

Say, what do you think about the new library box? The white metal outdoor book drop located on the back corner of the new handicap access ramp at the town hall was donated to our library by Franklin County Technical School. Installation of the book drop was provided by Dole Brothers at no charge to the town.

An informational meeting was held on Tuesday June 10 with regards to Route 8A and the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). A panel of invited guests comprised of various state and local officials was on hand at this meeting to explain, inform and to answer questions from Heath residents with regard to the future of this project. Senior Transportation Director Linda Dunlevy explained the lengthy process involved in order to place a project on the TIP and indicated that until there was a consensus among Hawley, Charlemont and Heath, no project relating to Route 8A can be moved from the future element to the TIP. MA Highway District Project Engineer Al Stegemann said that, at present, there are no definite plans for Route 8A.

Additional anonymous donations have been received for the technology fund of the Mary Lyon Education Fund. The state had initially awarded a match ceiling of \$275,000; however, through the efforts made by Doug Wilkins, the state agreed to award an additional \$30,000. On July 15 town residents voted to accept the \$16,000 in donations for the new computers and playground equipment at the Heath Elementary School so that these funds can be matched with 72% reimbursement by the state. It was also voted to place \$248,000 in the school project account in order to make the first loan payment.

The BOS has voted to participate in the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program presented by the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority. The \$155,000 would be available to be divided between Heath, Charlemont and Monroe with Heath as the lead community. The grant is made up of two components, housing rehabilitation and small business training. This program will make it possible for qualified residents to repair code violations on a deferred payment plan that can be paid when the house is sold or transferred and will offer training courses, technical assistance and monitoring programs for small businesses in all three towns.

As reported in the last issue of the Heath Herald, the BOS has established a new format for our Tuesday night meetings. Schedule permitting, the first 30 minutes of the Selectmen's meeting, between 7 and 7:30 PM, is reserved for "open forum". This allows residents a time to bring comments or questions to the board. We are also trying, temporarily, to post an agenda for the BOS meetings in advance of our Tuesday night's meetings. It has been our experience that schedules can and do change at the last minute. Therefore, we caution you that this agenda should be utilized only as a guide. The actual agenda may change by Tuesday evening.

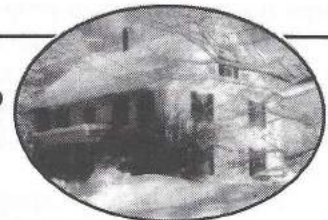
We may not be NASA, but we are exploring our own space issues in several of our town departments. Calls for more space have been heard from the librarian and other department heads such as the police, fire, and highway departments respectively. The BOS is in the process of forming a task force to work on a five to ten year plan that will encompass current and future space issues that must be addressed. This task force will be comprised of a Finance Committee member, a Planning Board member, a BOS member and possibly an architect and designer.

Sandra Gilbert was hired as Postal Relief Clerk and will be filling in for Marcella Lively at the Post Office whenever necessary. Colin Lucid has been hired for mowing town property and Jason Lively has been hired to work on the Highway Department as a seasonal employee until Labor Day. Welcome aboard!

The BOS regretfully accepted resignations from Kris Nartowicz in her position as custodian for both Sawyer and Community Halls and Michelle Howe who has served as Dog Officer. We wish to extend our thanks to both Kris and Michelle for their services to the town.

At this point the position of Dog Officer is still vacant. The Board would prefer to appoint a resident to this position so if anyone is interested please speak with one of the selectmen.

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PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

Percolation Tests

Ray Pettengill reports that there were three (3) perc tests conducted in June and July. One of the three passed.

Building Permits

No building permits were issued this period.

Deed Transfers

Anthony J. Bys to Leslie D. Underwood and Laurie M. Briones of Shelburne Falls, 7 Wigwam Drive. \$66,000.

Stanley W. Borowiec to Staley R. and Lois A. Lachtara of Holyoke, 27 Cascade Drive. \$2,300.

Bruce M. Hubbard to David H. Ruelle and Helen M. Eyre of West Springfield, Waterfall Drive, lot 4. \$3,000.

James P. and Dawn Seidell to Frank Donald IV and Cheryl DiPietro Orton of East Hampton, CT, 29 Waterfall Drive. \$15,000.

Cersosimo Lumber Company Inc., to Cersosimo Industries Inc., of Brattleboro, VT, Vincent Road (and also in Buckland, Charlemont, Conway, and Shelburne). No consideration.

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HEATH BUILDS A PLAYGROUND

by Deborah Phillips

The six members of the Heath School Playground Committee -- namely Sue Crawford, Suzanne Taylor, Tim Lively, Bruce Phillips, Karen Brooks, Stephen Bechtel -- along with input from community members, have worked hard on the planning, development and bidding process for the new playground. Once again, this project is possible through the state aid and private donations that Heath is receiving for the school.

After reviewing all the bids, they have accepted the proposal submitted by Landscape Structures of Medfield, MA. The components have been ordered and the expected installation date will be a Saturday in late September. Landscape Structures will supply us with a supervisor, but the actual assembly will require the help of community volunteers. There will be jobs for everyone from site preparation to actual assembly. Twenty-five to thirty adults are needed. Please call Bruce Phillips at 337-8513 or Karen Brooks at 337-6614 if you are available to help.

MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

Born June 4, a daughter Miranda Lynn to Daphne E. (Parkinson) and Kyle D. Clark of Hawley, granddaughter of Sally and Kenny Hunkler of Whitingham, VT, William Clark of Heath, Elizabeth Parkinson of Greenfield and David Parkinson of Columbus, OH, great-granddaughter of Dorothy and Darwin Clark Senior of Hawley and Kenneth Heans and Llewella Parkinson, both of Toronto, Ontario.

Born June 18, a son Austin Lee to Amy Decker and Dale Reynolds of Warwick, grandson of Bette Decker of Heath, Anthony Reynolds Senior of Sunderland, great-grandson of Mildred Decker of Heath and Anita Martin of Belchertown.

HEATH HERALD

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HEATH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS) NEWS

by Tim Lively

In the first six months of 1997 the following calls were answered:

1/12/97 Number Nine Road - Motor Vehicle rollover
1/17/97 Burrington Hill Road - Car accident
1/17/97 Sumner Stetson Road - Medical
1/18/97 Jacobs Road - Sledding accident
1/26/97 Number Nine Road - Medical
2/9/97 Colrain Stage Road - Snowmobile accident
2/27/97 Brunelle Road - Medical
5/24/97 Mohawk Estates - Eye Injury
5/25/97 South School House Road - Medical
6/06/97 Jacobs Road - Bicycle accident
6/12/97 Ledge Road - Medical
6/19/97 Rt 8A North - Medical
6/21/97 Rt 8A North - Motorcycle accident
6/29/97 Cascade Drive - Eye Injury

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) also provided coverage for the Family Fun ski day on 2/16/97. During the first six months of 1997, three regular EMS meetings were held. We meet on a bi-monthly basis and monthly in Charlemont. EMTs also attended "EMT and the Crime Scene" class in Northfield on May 11.

We hope everyone has a fun and safe time at the Heath Fair.

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