



VOLUME 20 NUMBER 2

JUNE/JULY 1998

# HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

50¢

## 1998 HEATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS



**Top Row:** Liam Latrell, Ashley Stron, Chelsea Moore, Elizabeth Kuehl, Robert Tanner, Ross Thane, Pam Lucid, Alice Rocchi, Esther Katz, Stephen Bechtel

**Middle Row:** Alex Lively, John McDougall, Melinda Duff, Maijia Begin, Laura O'Reilly, Mike Robitaille

**Bottom Row:** Claire Grandison, Tanya Patenaude, Eugene Marcotte, Laura Feretti, Beth Feretti

## LETTERS

### Notes of Remembrance from the Herald

Sometimes there just isn't much time. You forget to stop and just talk with your neighbors and friends. We lost two folks from town during recent months whom I had never gotten to know as well as I would have liked. Long timers Ruth Fournier and Ernie Thane were integral members of our community; both, during the times I had met them, very sweet and soft spoken. Ruth always had kind words, and Ernie, well, he always had that grin.

The words spoken and the people evidenced at both of their services gave promise that they will long be remembered in story and in heart. They gave of themselves selflessly to help make our town a home.

This is very short, not really doing justice to either, except to say you will be missed. To their families, and to the DeLeuwes, who have lost two family members in recent months, you are being held in our thoughts.

-LWB

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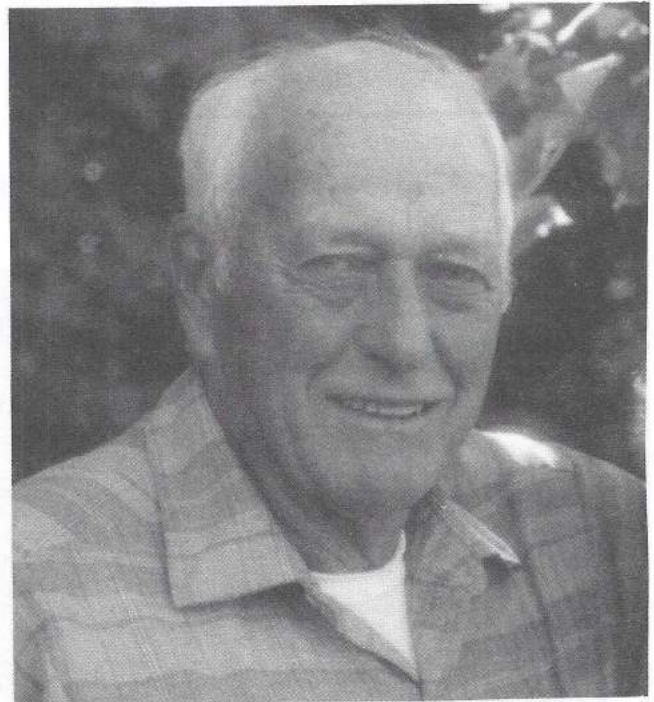
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## LETTERS

Many, many, thanks to all of you who showed love and concern during the time of our losing Ernie. Thank you for all the flowers, memorial gifts, cards, food and prayers. We are truly blessed for having such wonderful and caring friends and neighbors.

God Bless you all,  
Alli Thane & family



Ernie Thane

### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Cynthia Johnson has graduated with a Master of Social Work from Springfield College. Three years in the doing, she graduated May 17.

Todd Sumner has returned to Heath from his year studying at Teachers College, Columbia University, with an M.A. in Educational Administration. Mr. Sumner was on sabbatical leave from the Academy at Charlemont and will resume his teaching and administrative duties there in September.

Robert Dane's, "The Four Seasons", aka the glass wall at Heath Elementary School, can be seen in the April/May issue of the fine craft magazine, "American Craft". There is a copy of it in the public library.

Mary Vilbon received commendation at Greenfield Community College for earning all A's this past semester.

Congratulations to you all!

## LIBRARY LINES

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

Haven't a clue for the summer? We can solve that problem. Big kid, little kid, over the hill kid, there is something planned for all ages this summer, with our summer reading program "Unlock the Mystery", Story Hours, family craft nights, and a poetry reading featuring our own Juliet Seaver and Mike Chrisman. Sponsored in part by a grant from the Heath Cultural Council, as well as other area cultural councils, Juliet Seaver and Mike Chrisman will read some of their poetry from a newly published chapbook from the Arms Library. A date has not yet been set for the reading.

### Library Summer Schedule

Regular hours are Monday 5-8 pm; Wednesday 12-5 pm; and Saturday 9 am-1 pm.

Story hours will be held on Saturdays at noon, beginning in July.

July 1, Wednesday 7 pm  
Mystery Night at the Library  
Program and Registration

July 15, Wednesday 7 pm  
Mystery Mask Making for children  
and their parents

Aug. 5, Wednesday 7 pm  
Mystery Mask Decorating for children  
and their parents

Aug. 12, Wednesday 7 pm  
Just Bead It! Decorative Bead stringing  
for young people and their parents.

Aug. 19, Wednesday 7 pm  
Mysterious Endings at the Library  
Stories and ice cream, oh my!

We ask that participants pre-register for the Mask Making and Bead stringing craft nights so we will have an idea of materials and space needed.

There is no charge for the craft nights, but we do have a wish list, to supplement the materials we have already acquired. If you would like to donate any of the following materials please bring them by:

- Bottles of clear nail polish
- Beads, in good condition, all shapes, sizes and colors, that you are willing to part with.
- Small baby food jars (to hold the beads)
- Strong thread or cord
- Ribbon
- Sequins or other sparkly type material
- 2" Medical plaster bandages

-Basic unscented baby powder

-Extra adults for the craft nights

(It sounds like the library is going into the beauty parlor business, eh? Trust me, its not.)

And for those sultry, hot beach (or hide from the world) days, new books! A few of the great new reads in the library are: The Ballad of Frankie Silver, Sharyn McCrumb; Blind Descent, Nevada Barr; Ellen Foster, Kaye Gibbons; Message in a Bottle, Nicholas Sparks; With This Ring, Amanda Quick; You Belong to Me, Mary Higgins Clark; All the Dead Lie Down, Mary Walker; Cavedweller, Dorothy Allison; Ghost Country, Sara Paretsky; House of Days Poems, Jay Parini; Moor A Mary Russell Novel, Laurie R. King; River Angel, A. Manet Ansay; and non-fiction titles, Timbered Choir: The Sabbath Poems, Wendell Berry; and Soon We Will Not Cry, Cynthia Fleming; Child Called It, David Pelzer; New Art of Making Beer, Stanley Anderson; Still Me, Christopher Reeves; Closed Chambers, Edward Lazarus; Comets: Creators and Destroyers, David Levy; Confederates in the Attic, Tony Horwitz; Epic Stories of Survival from Everest; Gardening with Children, Betty Richardson; and, The Art of the Maya Scribe, Dr. Michael Coe.

## LIVELY DANCE RECITAL

The Heath Elementary School is the venue for the first annual dance recital presented by Director Martha Lively of LIVELY DANCE on June 13 at 7:30 p.m. Martha is a Heath native and has returned to the Franklin County area after many years of studying and performing, to teach dance to both children and adults.

Performing at the recital will be the participants of the creative movement class, the two ballet classes, two jazz classes and two modern dance classes that have been taught at the school recently. All of the students have been working very hard on their programs. The theme of this year's recital is "The Elements". Tickets are \$3.00 each, with children under 5 attending for free, and can be purchased at the school ahead of time or at the door.

This has been a wonderful opportunity for the children and adults of Heath. In a geographic area where we all become accustomed to driving a significant distance for cultural enrichment, how fortunate to have an accomplished instructor teaching just down the road. Please be sure to support their effort and come to the school on June 13 to see Heath Dance!

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## HEATH CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Colin Lucid

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says: "To everything there is a season. A time for every purpose under heaven." This verse strikes a chord in my mind as the season of planting gardens and breaking out the lawn mowers is upon us. At Heath church we are once again gearing up for our summer Vacation Bible School. The theme for this year's V.B.S. is "Amazing Science and Wonders." The dates are Monday July 6 through Friday July 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon at Heath Union Church. We invite all children from K-6 grades to join us for a fun filled week.

### You Are Invited

Our summer schedule is as follows:

Sunday worship service: 9 a.m.

Children's Church: 9 a.m.

Youth Group: 6:45 p.m. on Sunday at Heath School.

Bring your favorite snack and wear sneakers.

Ages 6th grade through High School are invited.

Experiencing God: Thursdays, 7 p.m. at the parsonage.

Prayer Meeting: The third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the church.

Game Night: Potluck supper and game night  
Saturday June 20, 6 p.m. at the Community Hall.

Many of you know that we have had to come to some decisions about our church building to meet state regulations within the next five years to keep our church open to future generations. Thanks to those of you who called or wrote sharing your thoughts with us. The vote of our church members was not to move the church but to renovate it on its existing lot. We have a lot of funds to raise to complete the work necessary to keep our building operational. If you are able to help with the financial expense of this renovation please contact the church office at 337-5755. Please look for our booth at the Heath Fair where you will find many "delights" for young and not so young.

## HEATH SCHOOL NEWS

### MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

On Thursday, May 28, the Heath School went to the Heath Center Cemetery. Children lined the road leading into the cemetery while the flag bearers marched into the cemetery to drum cadence. Everyone wore poppies that they had made at school for the program. Nima Booth, Meshia Begin, Maircad O'Reilly, Rita Marcotte, Anna Armstrong and Becky Katz were the guest speakers. The origin of Memorial Day was explained, the Gettysburg Address was given and the poem "Flanders Field" was recited. Mr. Dennis Peters was part of the processional and the students helped him decorate the graves with flags for the Veterans.

The children also brought flowers from home to decorate other graves and Nurse Robin Booth did grave rubbings with the students. Mr. Bryant, the Singing Bus Drivers (sisters Dianne and Debbie) and Joan DeGusto performed The Battle Hymn of the Republic for the closing segment of the program.

All returned to the Heath school for a tree dedication for Ernie Thane. Mr. O'Reilly opened the ceremony and Ross and Alex Thane read a poem that they wrote for their grandfather. Alli Thane and members of the Thane family were present and a beautiful marker was placed at the foot of the tree for Ernie. Wanda Musacchio coordinated the events and is grateful for all the help she received in the planning of the program.



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## HEATH FAIR NEWS

by Robert Gear

Not long ago the fair lost one of its hardest workers and ardent supporters with the death of our friend Ernie Thane. This is a difficult thing to write about; Ernie was involved with the fair for so many years and did so much for us. Throughout the years he rarely missed a meeting and was always there with his well thought out advice and opinions to keep us on track, smoothing out procedures and in general letting us benefit from his experience.

There were so many times that Ernie would show up and bail me out of a work situation that needed more than one person. Its difficult to walk the fairgrounds and not see something that he helped to build or repair. When I was building the workshop it was Ernie who came and helped me build the work benches. The list goes on and on.

Last fall when we revived the Building Committee, Ernie was named chairman, and his enthusiasm and the seriousness with which he took this job were an inspiration to all of us. I will never forget those phone calls and meetings where we planned the projects we are working on now. I like to think he would approve of the way things are progressing. Ernie was always able to reconcile the inevitable progress the fair sometimes has to make with the traditional feeling we try to maintain.

The Agricultural Society would like to extend its condolences to the Thane family in appreciation for all the things that Ernie did for us over the years.

Work parties have continued and significant progress has been made. Extensive repairs were made to the bleachers at the horse draw arena to comply with state and insurance regulations and make the facility more comfortable especially for the elderly viewers. After the June Draw we will be making major repairs to the food concession building including a new pressure treated floor.

By the time you have read this we will have replaced the roof on the lower cattle barn. We have started excavating drainage ditches on the east sides of the rab-

bit, sheep and cow barns and I will be following this up with painting and minor repairs on these buildings.

The area near the silo is receiving lots of attention. I have finished the fence and will have it painted by the time you read this. Next year we anticipate Bonnie Wodin will have planted some shrubbery in this area. Bob DeLisle and I have made plans for finishing the silo and by fair time the area will offer an attractive welcome to the fair.

Plans are being implemented to have a concrete handicap ramp located at the rear of the Exhibit Hall as well as repairing the area at the front door. Work always continues on the original old barn near the silo; we hope to have TRG Traprock spread along the west side where the food is served to improve the footing and I am continuing with the new board siding.

The water holding tank in the pump house needs to be replaced and Joe Corbiel has taken charge of this project. The above improvements and the many minor projects that seem to turn up everyday promises a busy summer for myself, the Building Committee and all the volunteer workers.

Most importantly, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped so far this year with the various projects we have started and completed. This list is by no means in order of importance, you have all been a great help: Carroll Stowe, Bob DeLisle, Joanne Fortune, Howard Crowningshield, Conrad Halberg, Smead and Alvin Hillman, Michael Wilmeth and Donnie Moore. Don came over and did some serious "chainsaw surgery". I especially want to thank Howard for assuming the Building Committee Chair. He has already saved us much time, energy and money with his sage advice.

Meetings have been held at the school through the colder weather but will now be held at the fairgrounds. Look for times and dates in the West County News and at Peters' Store.

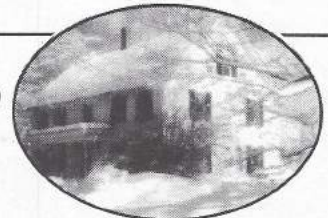
When the various projects in the works are completed the Fairgrounds will be in better shape than ever, and we are looking forward to an exceptional fair. Please come to the meetings and work parties to air your ideas and opinions and lend a hand.

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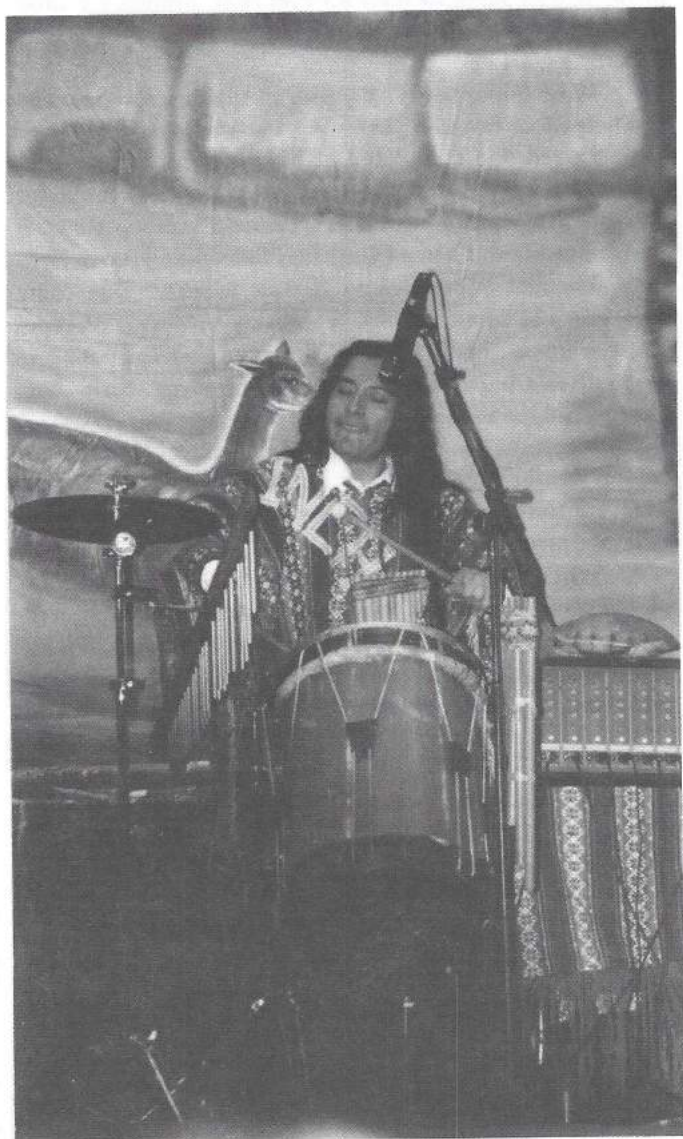
## HEATH SCHOOL BRINGS INCA SON

The Heath School Community Partnership, together with a grant from the Massachusetts Arts Lottery Council, sponsored a fantastic cultural enrichment program not only for the students of Heath Elementary, but for all of Franklin County. Inca Son, the world-renowned South American music and dance ensemble, put on quite a show at the Mohawk High School the evening of May 1 where approximately 275 people turned out. The event included the use of native musical instruments and dress worn by the people of the Andes Mountains, original songs by Cesar Villalobos, and cultural dances celebrating spring, romance and the harvest.

The event was preceded by a number of workshops for the students at the Heath school where they had the opportunity to hear stories of the Peruvian Inca culture, and to see and use all of the native instruments made

from everything indigenous to the area—such as deer skin for drums, armadillo shells for the back of a charango (small guitar), antlers, gourds and pods for rattles, bamboo for pan flutes, animal horns used as horn instruments, and turtle shells as percussive instruments, to name a few. Many of the workshops also enjoyed the opportunity to learn native dances and the symbolism of the movements. Children from the Upper Classes (4,5,6) were invited to use the pan flutes and learn a song which they then performed on stage at the evening performance.

Cesar Villalobos and Inca Son have played at the Atlanta Olympic Games, World Cup Soccer and have received many honors for their music. Heath owes a debt of gratitude to Judi Singley who was instrumental in making this event happen and organizing it so successfully. This was a marvelous cultural event for Heath's children and for all of Franklin County.



Inca Sun's Cesar Villalobos  
(photo by Kathy Inman)



Inca Sun's Cesar Villalobos on the pan flutes  
(photo by Kathy Inman)

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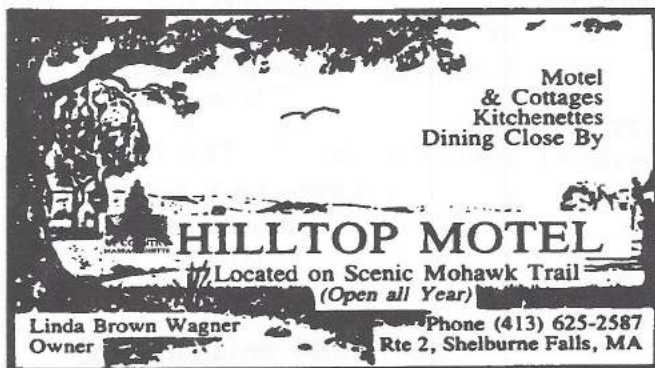
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## 1998 MOHAWK GRADUATING SENIORS

Congratulations to the following graduating seniors!

Seth Brower, Melissa Gilbert, Lyra Johnson, Paul Keyes, Elizabeth Kinsman, Lauren Kuehl, William Markert, Gregory Nichols, Bryony Richter and David Sessions.

**Seth Brower**

I will be attending Fitchburg State College, majoring in Film. I hope to pursue a career in special effects in film. I will miss all of the lifelong friends I have made over the years.

**Melissa Gilbert**

In the upcoming fall I will be attending Plymouth State College as an Elementary Education Major.

**Lyra Johnson**

In the fall I will be attending Greenfield Community College. I'm interested in fashion design and photography. I like to read and write poetry. I also like to dance and sing. In high school I was involved with the music department and Diversity Awareness.

**Paul Keyes**

I am going to the Air National Guard and then to Westfield State College. I enjoy study hall at Mohawk.

**Elizabeth Kinsman**

For the next two years I plan to attend Greenfield Community College and then transfer to a Massachusetts State College.

**Lauren Kuehl**

In the fall I will be attending UMASS- Amherst and studying Elementary Education.

**Bree Richter**

I have been on the Varsity soccer, ski and softball teams for four years, and was a Student Council Member for two years. I am attending the University of Vermont in the fall and majoring in Education.

**David Sessions**

When I first came to Mohawk, I was a troublemaker of sorts. However, as the years went by, I started to mature more. In the ninth grade I took metal works because it was something I wanted to do. It was in this class that I learned how to do many things, among them was how to weld. I took auto mechanics in the tenth grade because I have always liked working on cars. Later that same year I started my first job experience working in the school. After that, I began going off campus to other job sites for more experience.

In the twelfth grade, I started still more job experiences, and five weeks before graduation one of these experiences led to a part time job at Marty's, and I look

forward to the independence of a job.

The summer has always been my favorite time of year: I look forward to swimming, fishing and hanging around with good friends like Justin, Max, LeRoy, Jason and Nick.

My years at Mohawk have been very positive. I would like to especially thank Sharleen Moffat and Mr. Megliola.



## 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**

### Durable Iron

As I've aged I have tried to advise people with regard to the purchase of usable machinery. Even at that I've felt that often I wasn't taken seriously. Recently it seems like several friends have allowed me to feel like perhaps I wasn't talking to the wind. I've been given the pleasure of steering two friends in the direction of two classic M Farmall tractors. Both these units have some age but are also experienced. There's an advertisement for a luxury car that suggests that to drive one is to drive a legend. These old servants, made of cast iron and steel were legend long before these particular autos were ever thought of.

I don't mean to sound like a cracked record but until one has experienced the steady expression of good honest power all my talking is useless. It can't be felt 'til you set in the seat. One of my neighbors attended last year's old tractor show and drove the town's old M and he wasn't going to be happy 'til he found one to grace his yard. Most of this old iron is more than 50 years old and will still do an honest day's work. Another good friend told me of his wish to find a legend of his own and I was able to line him up with one not a mile away as the crow or raven flies. This old iron needed more attention than the first one did to get it running.

When I saw my neighbor bringing his M into town by way of Burrington Hill climbing that hill in high gear the grin on his face said it all. I am always pleased to attend auctions where H and M Farmalls are to be sold and the price is usually more than they sold for new. I really get a lot of pleasure by linking people up with a looked for unit. I don't care what brand it is just so long as the buyer is happy. Most folks don't need the massive brute power of an M Farmall but if this is what they would like I'll do my best to match buyer with the seller. Hopefully I would never misadvise any one. Let me know if I am able to help. Your pleasure is my pay.

## FLYFISHING THE BIG APPLE

by Michael D. Coe

The last place one would think of as a sport fishing destination is New York City. Yet looking out from the great metropolis along any of its shores, one can almost always see fishermen seated or standing at the guard railing, patiently trying their luck. I remember a semi-humorous article by George Plimpton describing his interviews with some of these veteran sportsmen, and all described some huge fish - mainly striped bass - that they had caught over the years. When asked whether they had ever seen human bodies or parts thereof floating by, quite a few said they had!

But the Big Apple's savage reputation as a danger spot is undeserved, largely a result of the fact that it is the world's premier media city, in which any crime gets blown up out of all proportion by television newsmen; in truth, statistics show that New York is one of the safest cities in the nation. Mafia rubouts or not, it is a little known fact that the waters surrounding Manhattan Island are actually rich in fish the year round, particularly in "stripers", which breed in quantity in the Hudson.

It was a very chilly evening last November, Veteran's Day, in fact, when my son Andy and I arrived at a darkened marina on East 23rd Street, right on the East River. We had arranged a chartered flyfishing trip in New York Harbor, to leave at 5:30 p.m., but the outboard-powered skiff didn't show up until after 6. The guide was young, and totally inexperienced in the art of casting flies; in fact, his boat bristled with bait-casting and spinning rods, just the kinds of obstructions to snag a fly line. Hastily rigging up with rapidly freezing fingers, we at last left the dock and crossed the river to the Brooklyn side. All of Manhattan, and the bridges across the river, were lit up with millions of lights - the view was breathtaking (so was the cold!).

Our first stop was the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn. There we were, picturesquely stationed under giant oil tanks, and casting streamer flies (bait fish imitations) near and between dock pilings, as the tide began to run fast. This was hardly the kind of picture one sees in Orvis catalogues. It wasn't long before we began hooking up with real fish - "schoolie" stripers; we released these as we did all fish that night (all Hudson River stripers are seriously contaminated by PCBs deposited years back by General Electric). From time to time our flies would get

snagged on the rocky bottom - or was it something else? Exposure to the "Godfather" films made us wonder, but no bodies came to the surface.

As we moved along the darkened Brooklyn shore, we would come across landmarks known to us, such as the wonderful River Cafe, right next to the Brooklyn Bridge, where we had often dined luxuriously; we could see the *haut monde* of New York at their meals, and envied them the warmth more than the food. Then, we came close to disaster. The tide was really racing in earnest by now, roaring under the lighted bridges out to the sea past the Statue of Liberty. Our guide had anchored us by the stern, but the anchor rope had become wrapped around the motor! He tried to untangle it, but the current was too strong, and waves from passing tugs and barges were beginning to slop over the transom. I envisioned a squib in next day's *New York Times*: *Three Swept to Sea in Manhattan boat disaster, coast Guard fails to find bodies*. Finally, we decided to cut the rope, and Andy had to hold our friend by the feet as he probed underwater with his knife. Free at last!

So, we passed under three bridges - the Williamsburg, Manhattan, and Brooklyn Bridges - and fished our way around the Battery, at the tip of Manhattan. Then, by about 10 p.m., we had crossed from the Battery to Governor's Island, site of military installations since 1794. Until 1966 it was headquarters for the United States 1st Army, then it passed to the Coast Guard, but now it stands eerily empty; illuminated by mercury lamps, its clusters of Georgian-style buildings give it the aspect of a ghost-town Ivy League campus. We headed right for the empty docks, and cast our streamers where lights shone down on the water. These are "hot spots" for vast numbers of bait fish, and the stripers were gorging themselves. We took fish after fish. The setting reminded one of a night painting by Edward Hopper, especially a lonely phone booth on one dock, still lit with a harsh fluorescent bulb; we wondered what to do if the phone should ring!

All in all, by the time we were headed back to 23rd Street, we had caught and released over 50 striped bass, none of them giants, to be sure, but a fish is a fish. After paying off the guide - a nice guy, if not the world's most competent boatman - we crossed with our gear under the FDR Drive, and turned from searching for fish to searching for cabs. It was well past midnight before I fell into bed at the Yale Club; I am sure that the night staff who let me in the door thought I was crazy. Maybe I was.



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## HELPING RESTORE THE ATLANTIC SALMON AT THE HEATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

by Jorie MacLeod, Siobhan Herman, Jeremy Erho,  
Chris Geyster and Jenna Plante

If you visited Heath School in March or April, you may have seen an unusual fish tank in the open space. The Upper South class (grades 4-5) had begun a project with the Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and were very excited about raising some salmon. We knew our part would include keeping the water cool enough, removing the dead eggs, and watching the developing tiny hatchlings, also known as fry. We'd eventually release the fry in the nearby West Branch of the North River.

Somehow, even though we knew the eggs and fish would be tiny, we didn't imagine that after they arrived they would mostly hide out under the rocks, just like they would in the Branch. We had to use a turkey baster to remove any dead eggs, and we worried about the temperature of the water, which had to stay at around 38 degrees. Other than these chores, not much was visible to all the inquiring minds at Heath School, so our class did some research and created an informational bulletin board about the life cycle of the salmon, complete with migration maps and information about the project.

Warren Kimberly, of Trout Unlimited, was our liaison, and he provided us with information, guidance, and support all through the project. The Fisheries provided the chiller and the tank. This was just our first year of a long-term project.

On April 10 our class went to the brook. We found a good spot to put the salmon in. We took bug samples back to class and identified them. We found a lot of different species of bugs, which meant that it would be a good place to let the salmon go because it would keep the food chain going. The salmon will have to go through at least three dams before they get to the Connecticut River. The reason we know that is because Warren Kimberly helped us find out a lot of information, like where to let them go and how to take care of them, and that the water had to be the same temperature as the river.

The next Tuesday we stocked the salmon. We hope they survive. Only a few of the salmon we raised might return, if any. Its amazing that they can live in such cold water when they are so young. It would be nice to see the salmon we set free though we could never know that they were ours. Just imagine that any salmon we see in the brook could be them or their children!

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## THE SALMON

by Chris Geyster

The salmon are hatching, they're starting to grow,  
In the spring it will be time to let them go.  
You may think they're little fish that just sit around,  
But they're just protecting themselves by staying  
near ground.

They don't just sit there watching for predators,  
(since they're prey)

The other thing they do is change in a way.

The sac they feed off gets smaller,  
and they eventually begin to get taller.

Its time to say bye cause they're turning to fry.

## TOWN NURSE NOTES

by Joanne Fortune

Thank you, Heath residents, for extending the Heath Town Nurse position at Town Meeting. I am excited to help you with your healthcare concerns.

Since I started the job, I've made 66 visits and many phone consultations. I regularly have contact with the TRIAD officer and Franklin County Home Care Corporation to help residents connect with resources. At present, I do not keep office hours because most people who use the service don't have transportation and prefer to see me in their home. If you have any questions about the service provided by the Town Nurse, please give me a call.

Age is not a factor in receiving Town Nurse care. If you know anyone who could use a nurse for physical and/or emotional care, please let me know. All contacts are held in strictest confidence. If you have any ideas for a health education program people in town would enjoy and benefit from, please tell me. It would be fun to do something at the Community Hall. I may be reached at 337-5716.

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## Green Thoughts

by  
ELSA BAKALAR

Always More to Come...

Under the cold rains and leaden skies of early May, I promised myself, as New Englanders do, that whatever the summer might bring, I would never again complain about heat or drought.

The first test of that foolish resolution came very soon - extraordinarily high temperatures, burning sunshine, and no rains, gentle or otherwise, to bring relief to the young, the tender, and the transplanted. Spring's flowers, so long awaited, were being hurried along. I wanted to slow things down, keep the special May beauty a little longer. Not for too long, you understand. I don't really want almond blossom and lilac and lily of the valley blooming on into summer. I know their time has to pass, indeed be almost forgotten in that explosion of color provided by peonies, oriental poppies, and iris of every hue--the Big Three of June, in fact.

A recent newspaper editorial cruelly reminded me that from solstice to equinox, summer lasts just a little over 90 days: "From a distance--from April, say--summer looks as capacious as hope...the season in which time stretches before us like the recesses of space itself, the season in which leisure swells like a slow tomato, until it is round and red and ripe."

So much for that slow tomato. There was nothing slow about gardens this spring. Things began going by before I had time to savor them. Between the two gardens, in Heath and in Ashfield (our winter home), I managed some "double dipping". The early, yellow apricot-scented shrub rose, past its bloom in Ashfield, was still only budded in Heath: the tall *Rosa rubrifolia*, exquisite in plum-colored foliage, only beginning to show color in Ashfield, was already gaudily decorated in Heath with starry brilliant pink flowers.

The storm that so dramatically ended May also ended the flamboyant splendor of bearded iris, but there will be the more modest Siberian and, later, the so-called Japanese Iris (*Iris ensata*). I have this sense of gardens being carried along on waves of color. At any time there will be something past, something in full glory, something yet to reveal itself. "Always more to come" could be the motto of the perennials gardener. It gives me the confidence to look out over much of the garden at present, distinguished chiefly by mounds of emerging green, and to know that there are twice as many flowers "still to come".



## TOWN ELECTIONS

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

116 voters turned out for the May election. Congratulations and best of luck to the people who were voted in for town office.

Voted in were: Thomas Lively for selectman; Karen Moore for finance committee; Mary Boyd for library trustee; Deborah Phillips for planning board; Margo Newton for assessor; Russ Hamilton for school committee; Charles Kaempfer for constable; and Fred Golba for dog officer.

The one ballot question, asking that the Town be allowed to be exempt for the amount required to pay for the bond issued to provide computer technology and playground equipment for the Heath Elementary School from the provisions of proposition two and a half, passed with 77 votes, 28 no votes and 11 blanks.

All articles on the warrant passed. Articles 4-9 dealt with transfer of funds during FY98 to be applied to accounts overdrawn; 10) a \$1,109,349 budget was passed; 11) \$15,000 from Free Cash for legal fees incurred by the civil action suit; 12) borrow \$85,000 for a truck, with its first payment of \$21,000 to be taken from Free Cash; 13) transfer from Free Cash \$15,000 to be put toward the purchase of an ambulance to be bought by Charlemont; 14) \$10,000 transfer from the Community Development Block Grant Payback Account to the Planning Board Expense Account for consultant services in its development of a long range plan for Heath; 15) \$35,000 for the purpose of acquiring land for municipal purposes; 16) \$2,000 appropriation to begin work on a set of town maps for use by the assessors, board of health, conservation commission and others; 17) a \$10,000 transfer from Free Cash to Stabilization; 19) adoption of Mass General Laws Chapter 40, section 57, which relates to licenses and permits of delinquent taxpayers; 20) the transfer of custody to selectmen of two acres of land on Colrain Stage Road and authorization to sell the land in accordance with requirements of the Uniform Procurement Act; 21) to borrow \$713,495 for maintenance, repair, improvement and construction of town and county highways, to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Mass; 22) to allow for the County Dog Fund to be used by the Heath Free Public Library; 23) allow the selectmen to amend the existing solid waste disposal agreement, or to enter into a new one.

The Town voted to continue the Town Nurse position.



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## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by D. F. Howland

Meetings for the FinCom for the past two months focused on budget preparation for the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) held Saturday, May 9, at the Community Hall. The total recommended budget of \$1,109,349 was passed; this number includes adjusted amounts for amortization of certain purchases. Significant steps were taken at that Meeting relative to Heath's future as follows:

A report by the Space Committee supported the vote to borrow up to \$35,000 for land suitable for a safety complex which would free up the current Town Garage and Fire Station for the Highway Department.

The Planning Board's request for \$10,000 to develop a Long Range Plan was approved.

\$2,000 was voted to initiate work on a set of town maps to be used by the Assessors, Board of Health, Conservation Commission and others.

The FinCom's goal with regard to the tax rate was to hold to \$19.50 per thousand valuation. This required cooperation on the part of the Board of Selectmen, Highway Department, Board of Health and some innovative planning. The State's granting of a permanent reduction in the School budget's Minimum Contribution of nearly \$100,000, plus some other adjustments reduced that budget by \$150,000. Thus, we expect to meet the tax rate objective. The other communities in the School District were not pleased with the State's action that benefitted Heath because it appeared to raise their operating assessments, but Heath had no choice in the process if we were to obtain what we believed we were entitled to. The fact is that increased State Aid money was used to offset any substantial increases in the operating assessments to the other communities; thus, no individual town suffered. The actual changes for FY 99 from FY 98 ranged from a plus 3.4% for Shelburne to a minus 6.2% for Colrain. Subsequent meetings with the Mohawk Municipal Advisory Committee will address this concern which is an integral part of the Ed Reform Act.

Since the ATM, two additional matters have occupied the FinCom - the pending sale of the Springfield Resource Recovery Corporation (SRRI) and the final closing of the Heath School mortgage with the Farmers Home Loan Corporation. SRRI operates the incinerator in Springfield that burns our trash. Because of unresolved contract issues that go back several years the pending sale is a little complicated. These issues are being addressed by the towns and lawyers, and the parties seem to be trying to work things out. The new hope-to-be owner, Energy Answers of Albany, NY, is offering incentives and a less complex contract to the communities. We'll see... As for the Heath School, the loose ends of construction and accounting for all the bills are being tied up with the expectation of completing

everything by June 30, 1998.

We welcome Karen Moore back to the FinCom beginning with our June meeting. She brings management and town experience to our efforts. We also thank Mike Smead for his lasting contributions, especially with regard to the Highway Department.

## PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

### Percolation Tests

Ray Pettengil reports that there were five perc tests conducted in April and May. Three passed and two are in question. Also there were three Septic System Applications received during this period.

### Building Permits

There were no building permits issued this period.

### Deed Transfers

Josephine Casso to Matthew and Susan E. Casso of Seymour, CT. 5 Shawnee Drive. No consideration.

Paulette Lamp to Jonathan and Kerry LaFortune of Chicopee. 23 Cheyenne Street. \$4,500.

Eva G. Pazmino to Fred H. Pazmino of Leyden, Susan Ploff of Orange, Marianne R. Gerry of Hudson, Ohio, Carme F. Donelson of Heath, Martha C. Ward of Buckland, and Elizabeth A. Davin. Jacksonville Stage Road. No consideration.

Elizabeth Nichols to Alanson and Elizabeth C. Nichols. 169 South Road. No consideration.

## HEATH EMS NEWS

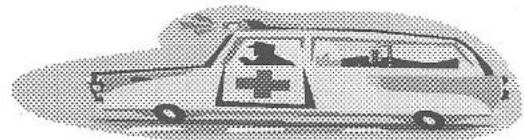
by Timothy Lively

The following calls were answered since the last issue of the Herald.

3/24/98 - Royer Road - Medical  
3/25/98 - Navajo Lane - Medical  
3/28/98 - Rt 8A South - Medical  
4/23/98 - Jacobs Road - Medical  
5/1/98 - Swamp Road - Medical  
5/8/98 - Knott Road - Medical

During this period we had one EMS meeting as well as our monthly meetings in Charlemont.

A Recognition party was held on April 19 for Mary Howe and David Thane for their 21 years of service to the town. Many family and friends attended. They were presented with certificates from the Town as well as gifts from the EMS association.



## MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

A son, Cyrin Heath, was born to Marisa (Housner) and Glenn Gutmacher, of Norton, on April 10. He is the grandson of Rich and Marlene Housner of Roswell, NM, formerly of Heath, and Nat and Ruth Gutmacher of Scotch Plains, NJ.

Born April 12, a daughter, Hope Annette, to Valerie (Jackman) and Lee Lively, of Heath. She is granddaughter to Kathryn and Leander Lively of Colrain and Constance and David Jackman of Conway. She is the great granddaughter of Chester Gadomski of Conway, and Lois Trow of Greenfield.

Born April 24, a daughter, Norah May, to Robin (Manz) and Vaughn Tower of Charlemont. She is granddaughter to Margo Sykes, of Heath, Edith Tower of Charlemont, and Ed Root, of Zoar. She is great granddaughter of Julia Robins of Trumbull, CT and Leonard Manz of Newton, CT.

Liam Timothy denOuden, a son, was born on April 9 to Amy and Matthew denOuden of Hebron, CT. Grandparents are Buck and Beverly denOuden of Heath and Tim and Irene Driscoll of Farmington, CT.

Ruth A. (Burnett) Fournier, 76, of Ledge Road, died on April 18, in Charlene Manor Extended Care Facility in Greenfield.

She was born in Greenfield on April 7 1928, the daughter of Lionel and Evelyn (Dodge) Burnett. She attended school in Conway and graduated from Arms Academy in 1948.

She married Phillip Fournier in June of 1948 and moved to Heath, where she lived until 1997. Her husband died February 19, 1991.

She was a partner in Phil's Pick-Up Services, and an assistant teacher of Heath Play School from 1983-1997. She was also Librarian for the Heath Library for several years. She was a member of the Council on Aging.

Survivors are their three sons, Philip (Chuck) Fournier, Jr. of Jacksonville, VT, Paul L. and James A. Fournier, of Heath; seven grandchildren, and three great

grandchildren.

Services were held at the Smith Kelleher Funeral Home, with Pastor Colin Lucid officiating. Burial was in the Heath Center Cemetery.

Ernest F. Thane, 75, of Heath, died April 23, at the Franklin Medical Center after being stricken at home.

He was born May 14, 1922, in Concord, MA, the son of George and Ethyl (Boothroyd) Thane.

Mr. Thane was a sergeant in World War II, stationed in the Pacific Theater, serving as a flight engineer for the Army Transport Corps.

In 1958 he moved his family to Heath. He owned and operated the Branch Hill farm until his death.

He was a member of the Heath Agricultural Society, a former member of the Heath Grange and the Heath Planning Board.

He and his wife, Alli (Syvanen), celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary on January 17.

Survivors include his wife, a daughter Beverly Cable of Heath, three sons, Steven of Groton, NY, and David, and William, of Heath, a sister, Patricia Siniawski of Hudson, ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

A funeral was held in the Heath Church with Pastor Colin Lucid officiating. Burial was in the Heath Center Cemetery.

David Birney DeLeeuw, 33, son of Jane Birney DeLeeuw, and the late Leon DeLeeuw, of Heath, died on the 21st of May while visiting his mother. He was a resident of New York, the city of his birth. He obtained a Masters Degree from Drew Theological Seminary, of Madison, NJ. In addition to his mother he is survived by his brother Michael, of Orange, NJ, and uncles and cousins.

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