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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1999

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

75¢

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING AND SUPPER

by Pegge Howland

The 1999 Annual Meeting of the Heath Historical Society will take place on Sunday, August 29th at the Community Hall in Heath Center.

The supper begins at 5:30 p.m. downstairs in the Community Hall. It will be catered by the talented Hall Committee. The menu is a surprise but the committee members have researched their old records and found a traditional Heath recipe that they are going to try out on us. The supper will cost \$7.00 per person and can be paid for at the door. But we MUST know how many are coming. Please call Pegge or Dave Howland at (413) 337-4980 to make your reservation or leave a message. You can also e-mail us at howlandd@crocker.com. There will be a short business meeting following the supper at 6:30 p.m.

The featured speaker of the evening will be Iona Lincoln who was the Curatorial Associate for Textiles at Historic Deerfield for 22 years. Her talk, "Dressing the 18th Century Woman," is based on the costumes in the Historic Deerfield collection and will begin at 7 p.m. upstairs in the Community Hall. She wants me to assure you that her presentation of slides will be "friendly and fun" and she does want you to ask questions. You may be very surprised at what she is going to "reveal." Even the men will be interested!

On September 15th of last year the Society received a grant from the Dickinson Family Fund for Historical Heath to purchase some conservation materials for the textile collection. Included were acid-free boxes, tissue paper, and storage tubes. Dot Gary and Pegge Howland have been gradually sorting the clothing and many doilies in the collection and repacking them in the new boxes. This was all done on the advice of Iona Lincoln whom we retained to advise us on the project. So you see it is very appropriate and timely that she is our speaker this year. We hope to have some of our textiles on display at the Community Hall for the occasion including a couple of wedding dresses. Don't miss it!

REMEMBER TO MAKE A RESERVATION!

HEATH FAIR NEWS

by Robert Gear

Here we are ready for yet another Heath Fair; did I say ready? I can hardly believe that I've been here at the fairground for nine years. All the stereotypical phrases come to mind such as: Where did the years go? It seems like yesterday. But that is the way it really is. These past years have been years of growth and learning and, above all, getting to know some of the best people anyone would want to know.

As usual, there are lots of irons in the fire and a lot of people working hard to make things happen. The primary focus this year has been the renovation of the old, original barn which stands at the entrance of the fairground and was the original exhibit hall. This barn, more than anything on the grounds, is a symbol of the community's involvement with the fair. It was built by volunteer labor from limited resources in the simpler era which the fair itself represents. By fair time, we will have in place a new roof, newly painted new siding, and new offices for the fair staff. The interior will be cleaned out and be available for people who want a quiet spot to eat in or in which to catch up with an old friend.

June was one of the busiest months we've had. Most interesting was the second weekend when we hosted the 1999 Yankee Beemers Rally. The Beemers, an outstanding group of people, is the Massachusetts chapter of the BMW motorcycle owners national group. It was a great weekend for everybody concerned. The Heath Fire Department catered a chicken barbecue, and the Heath Church provided the food concession. This event was economically significant for the

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Reflections from the Herald Desk...

Sometimes something can be looked at for so long you no longer really see it for what it is. Over the summer the Library had a moon and star gazing party with amateur astronomer Clark Johnson. I'd been expecting a scope out of an old pirate movie or something. Clark showed up toting a several foot long, 1 foot diameter telescope. Wow! We gazed at bright stars which were really "double" stars, spotted the quick-moving crescent-moon profile of Venus, and viewed the moon in its mottled, cratered beauty. "Man in the Moon", "Woman Who Works in the Moon", are but a few explanations of the moon and its relevance to us, depending on one's culture. There is definitely "more than meets the eye". This loosely paralleled conversations we'd been having among Heath Herald staff. What are we forgetting to see that makes this newspaper unique to our town? How can we at the newspaper best reflect back to the community the reasons that unite us and make us want to live here? What piques reader interest?

At our last Herald staff meeting we explored this. From the group's energy that evening generated a number of ideas, which will be developed over the next few months. With this issue we have begun with two new columns, centering on food, and on the sky.

If you have attended any of the potluck suppers in the Community Hall, you realize that Heathens know how to cook, and that many individuals have family recipes that are practically "no-fail" in their appeal at gatherings. Terry Pettengill has agreed to edit this for us.

We've introduced an astronomy almanac, as we have a great deal of sky which is relatively undisturbed by the light pollution prevalent in more populated areas. Reclining in the cooled-down grass of a summer evening after the hot days we've been having allows time for reflection and a chance to refresh and gain perspective again. This is another of the reasons some of us have chosen to live here.

We invite reader comment and suggestion.

-Laurie Wheeler Burrington

MOON AND STARS ALMANAC

For the months of August, September and October

Aug. 4 Waning Half moon in Taurus
Aug. 11 New Moon in Leo
Aug. 26 Full Moon in Pisces

Sept. 2 Waning Half Moon in Virgo
Sept. 9 New Moon in Virgo
Sept 17 Waxing Half Moon in Sagittarius
Sept. 25 Full Moon in Aries

...And Readers Write...

Dear Townspeople of Heath,

As many of you know, I am going to be an exchange student in Venezuela for eleven months as of this September 2. Many of you also know that this experience is very expensive. Many of you have placed donations into my can at Peters' Store. I want to thank all who have done so, as well as the Plantes for allowing me to use their counter space for my collection. I greatly appreciate the support that I have received from all, and I hope that you continue to support me in my cause.

Thank you to all, and have a great year!

Sincerely,

Aaron Wodin-Schwartz

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

Executive Editor	Susan Silvester
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Advertising & Circulation	Deborah Phillips
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RAYS OF INTEREST

by R.C. Pettengill

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

"I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life."

"No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.

"Is that your son?" the nobleman asked. "Yes," the farmer replied proudly. "I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow to a man you can be proud of."

And that he did. In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin. Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin. The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

-Author unknown

I discovered my wife! She has made my world a very nice place to live in. I have tried to make the world a little better for other people to live in too.

-Mr. Pettengill

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Thomas Lively

The Board of Selectmen has been on a summer schedule of meeting every other week until the end of August when the regular schedule will resume. Some of the issues before the board this summer are the following:

Appointments

Many of the appointments to the unfilled positions have been made. We are in the process of contacting appointees to confirm their acceptance. We will be gathering information on the duties and responsibilities of a number of the positions as defined by the laws of the Commonwealth. A number of them are a mystery!

Transfer Station

We have entered into new contracts for transfer station hauling services. The metals bin has been a problem recently. No contractor will haul the contents for the recycled material value alone. A contract has been awarded for hauling the metal for about \$250 per load with a limit of 12 loads annually. The selectmen are investigating options for paying for this additional expenditure. Among the options are increases in the cost of dump stickers and selling tickets for disposing of major appliances. Signs and notices will be posted to remind people that refrigerators, air conditioners, and TV sets cannot be disposed of at the transfer station. We are working on finding alternatives for disposing of hazardous materials and appliances for residents.

Repairs to Sawyer Hall and the Community Hall

The exterior stairs to Sawyer Hall will be rebuilt in the near future. A proposal has been submitted and accepted for this work. The Community Hall is also in need of attention. We have decided to pursue funding for re-roofing the building, improving the foundation drainage, and repairing siding and trim. Temporary repairs to the roof and siding will have to be made soon to prevent additional damage until the larger project can be undertaken.

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HEATH EMERGENCY SERVICES NEWS

by Timothy Lively

The following medical calls were answered since the last issue of the Herald:

- 5/21/99 - Underwood Hill Road - medical
- 5/22/99 - Rte. 8A South - motorcycle accident
- 5/26/99 - EMTs to assist Colrain Ambulance for welfare check. Canceled enroute
- 5/30/99 - Rte. 8A South (Dell Bridge) - motorcycle accident
- 5/31/99 - Branch Hill Road - medical
- 6/03/99 - Rte. 8A South - medical
- 6/20/99 - Colrain Stage Road - medical
- 7/02/99 - Rte. 8A North - medical
- 7/06/99 - Assisted Fire Department with thunderstorm damage
- 7/10/99 - Moduc Street - medical

The new ambulance has arrived in Charlemont. It will be at the Heath Fair for a couple of hours after the parade for people to look at. We hope everyone has a fun and safe time at the Heath Fair.

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SENIOR LUNCHEON

by Eileen A. Tougas

Diners were treated to after dinner entertainment at the monthly Senior Luncheon held on July 1st at the Heath Community Hall. Mohawk Estates property owner, Connie Rosinski, graciously donated her time singing a medley of songs. She was dressed in colorful attire which added to her delightful performance. During her rendition of "Baby Face", Connie's daughter, Terry Kendra, surprised the audience when she came out dressed as a baby in diapers as part of the act.

Entertainment was also provided by Jacob Smead and Joe O'Dea who played several tunes on the keyboard accompanied by Elizabeth Lemelin on the flute. It was a real treat to have these young people present to share their time and talent with us.

If you haven't attended a Senior Luncheon yet, it's not too late to join in the fun. Dinners are served on the first Thursday of every month and it's a great time to visit and meet with your neighbors. A donation of \$1.50 is suggested for senior citizens and \$2.50 for all others.

People who wish to attend are asked to call 337-4065 or 337-4896 for reservations by 10:30 a.m. on the Wednesday before the luncheon. Please note the following dates: Sept. 2, Oct 7, Nov.4 and Dec. 2.

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HILLTOWN TASTE

The Heath Herald is starting a new feature which will endeavor to bring you easy and delicious recipes appropriate to the season and lifestyle of Heath. Most recipes will be cultivated from Heath residents by our new Food Editor, Terry Pettengill. If you have a recipe you would like to share, please send it along to her, c/o the Heath Herald, Box 54. Bon Appetit!

Wild Blueberry Smoothie

Beverly Cable

6 oz. (3/4 cup) wild blueberries (fresh or frozen)
6 oz. yogurt (plain, vanilla*, or blueberry)
1 Tblsp. honey or syrup (if using plain yogurt)
1/2 cup (3 cubes) ice.

Blend well on high in a blender. Serve immediately.
Serves 2

Burnt Hill Farm Blueberry Cake

Jack and Beverly Cable

2/3 cup sugar	Topping:
1/4 cup shortening	1/2 cup sugar
1 egg	1/3 cup flour
1/2 cup milk	1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
2 cups flour	1/4 cup cold butter
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder	or margarine
1 tsp. salt	

Mix sugar and shortening thoroughly. Add egg and mix well. Sift together flour, baking powder and salt. Beginning and ending with flour mix, add flour mix and milk alternately to the sugar mix. Fold in blueberries- not with a mixer. Pour batter into greased and floured 9" pan. Blend together ingredients for topping. Cold butter will prevent it from becoming pasty- make it crumbly. Sprinkle topping on batter. Bake 45 min. (more if berries are frozen) in 350 degree F. oven. Enjoy! (This also makes great muffins- 12 reg. or 6 huge- use 1/2 the topping.)

Richard C. Bishop

Elder Law Attorney

Massachusetts, Florida, Arizona

P.O. Box 121, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
413-625-2574 / fax 625-8321

40 School St., Suite 5, Greenfield, MA 01302
413-773-1818 / fax 773-1881

Grilled Corn On the Cob

Bruce Phillips

This idea lands in Heath from the exotic, colorful and flavorful street markets of South Asia.

Shuck a half-dozen ears of sweet corn leaving a few inches of the stalk for easier handling. Put in boiling water for just three minutes, then run it under cold water to keep it from overcooking. Set the corn aside.

The grilling sauce is open to your interpretation. The "backbone" will be butter and a sweetener. Melt 1/2 stick butter in a bowl. Add honey, maple syrup or brown sugar. The idea is to get a consistency that won't run off the corn but is easy to spread. From this point, I go for some soy sauce or hot tiger sauce. Something spicy to make everyone beg for more. Use your imagination.

On a preheated grill at medium high heat, cook corn for 3 - 4 minutes then start brushing on sauce with a natural bristle brush. Rotate frequently. Keep brushing. The kernels shouldn't get black; you're just making the glaze adhere to the corn. Six or seven minutes should be plenty. Salt to taste and enjoy. The same sauce is excellent on zucchini, summer squash, peppers, etc. Just be sure to cut pieces big enough so they won't fall through the grill.

TOWN NURSE NOTES

by Joanne Fortune

I now see Heath residents at the school on Jacobs Road for the summer. I am there on the following Tuesdays, July 27, August 3 and August 10 from 1-2 p.m. You don't need an appointment and our meeting is confidential. We are working on securing a permanent office. I'll keep you posted.

I take blood pressures at the senior luncheon the first Thursday of each month at the Community Hall. If you would like to meet with me and do not want to attend the luncheon, please feel free. I am there at 11:45 p.m.

Kaiser Permanente has donated \$750 to the Town Nurse position for a pulse oxymeter which measures the percent of oxygen in the blood. Thank you to Susan Gruen for making this possible.

I attended a conference about the Lyme tick and disease. The tick regurgitates the Lyme into the host only after the tick becomes engorged. I don't know of any cases of Lyme disease in this area.

My services as Town Nurse are free to residents of Heath. Stay cool and have a great August and September.

THE BOOKMOBILE

by former library staff

Every nine weeks or so, the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System Bookmobile comes to Heath, and it is a busy day for the library staff. Over 500 items need to be carried out to the Bookmobile and 500 new items selected and carried back to the library.

We choose, for the most part, books, adult and children's fiction and non-fiction, but also video tapes and books-on-tape which the Heath Library could not afford to buy. The Bookmobile comes six or seven times a year which allows the library to always have "something new" for our loyal patrons.

In order to do the job of carrying and selecting, lots of people are needed. The work in this regard of Alli Thane and Don Dekker, both as volunteers before and after working in the library, and, of course, during their tenures as town librarian and assistant librarian, has been invaluable. Helen Mackie has for many years selected the adult non-fiction with care and devotion. Terry Pettengill selected the large print books for many years until her back gave out. Jane deLeeuw now chooses the mysteries. Laurie chooses those categories which are not done by Alli, Don, Helen or Jane.

While everyone carries as much as possible while not choosing materials, it is so very important to have people with us to primarily carry the books. It helps us to choose more carefully those materials we think our patrons would like. The carriers down through the years have been many and are much appreciated. If you have the time, about two hours on a Wednesday morning every nine weeks, and would like to help, please get in touch with Laurie at the library.

PRINCIPAL SEARCH NEARING END

The current search for a new principal for the Heath Elementary School is in its final stages at press-time. On Thursday, Aug. 5 approximately fifty parents, school choice parents, community members, school staff and Search Committee members met to conduct community interviews with the two finalist candidates. Tim Luce of Conway, and Joanne Giguere of Colrain both appeared to have made very strong impressions on both the Search Committee and those gathered at the meeting.

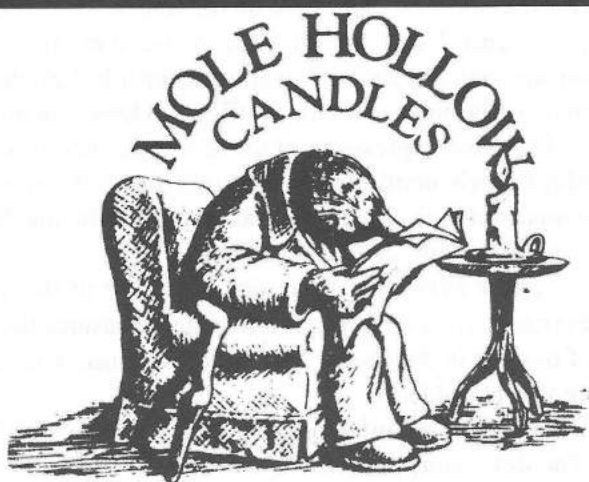
An "agressive" timeline for conducting the search was initiated in June, with a meeting with members of the Heath community to allow for discussion of concerns and the search process. From June 4-July 16 the principal position was advertised. On June 22 Mr. Genovese met with former principal search members. Search Committee members were mail information packets on all of the candidates on June 29. July 19 found the initial Search Committee meeting to identify both seven individuals for interviewing and questions for the interviews. During late July the candidates were interviewed, and from that, 1-3 candidates were chosen. On July 27 Mr. Genovese called the finalists' superintendents and/or supervisors. On Aug. 2 Mr. Genovese met with each finalist in a "personalized, fireside chat" and asked each for a writing sample.

On Aug. 5, the two candidates were given a chance to tour the Heath Elementary School and to meet with school staff members in an informal setting, before the evening's 6:30 p.m. meeting.

As the meeting unfolded, each candidate was allowed approximately 20 minutes, in which, "in a nutshell", each explained their education, educational philosophy, and journey to why they chose to apply for principalship at the Heath school. Following that introduction those gathered asked such questions of each as to ascertain more about why they chose Heath, views on special education, how best to integrate community both within the school and with the larger community, even, what book they were currently reading.

After the individual interviews ended for the evening, the group at large gave impressions of both candidates, in a discussion facilitated by Mr. Genovese. After this, first Mr. Genovese, the Search Committee and staff met, then Mr. Genovese and the Search Committee met by themselves for further discussion about which of the two "very solid" candidates would best suit the needs of the school. The Search Committee made its recommendation and Mr. Genovese explained that he would have a decision made by Monday Aug. 9.

(continued on next page)



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(Principal continued from previous page)

The Search Committee is been comprised of: Alan Genovese, Superintendent of Schools; Brian DeVriese, Heath Board of Selectmen; Frank Brower, School Committee; Robert Clancy, Rowe Elementary Principal; Dot Lyman, District Central Office staffperson; Roberta Murphy, 2/3 grade Teacher; Mary Culver, 4/5 grade teacher; Mary Vilbon, Local Education Council Representative; Robert Handsaker, Choice Parent; Deb Lively, Aide and Choice Parent; Hazel Porter, Community Member.

(Selectmen's Notes continued from page 2)

Space Task Force

The Heath Space Task Force has submitted its final report. The BOS is in the process of reviewing this report and also the request that a permanent Town Buildings and Facilities Committee be established to help assess conditions and plan for maintenance and expansion. We look forward to meeting with the Task Force in August. We offer our thanks to Paul Turnbull and the others for their dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work on this project.

3-Town Landfill

The BOS met with the selectmen from Charlemont and Hawley and representatives of the property owner at the former 3-Town Landfill site to continue discussion of an agreement for joint ownership management of the site. Legal work needs to be done on the deed and information

(Selectmen continued)

on environmental procedures needs to be gathered before continuing the talks. It was a good opportunity to meet the other selectmen and establish a cooperative atmosphere for resolving the issues around joint ownership and management.

Center Cemetery

Noticeable improvements are taking place at the Center Cemetery thanks in part to the leadership of Dick Gary with assistance from the Highway Department and Tom Danek. The BOS looks forward to meeting with Dick and the other members of the Cemetery Commission in August to discuss future plans, policies and procedures for the town's cemeteries' maintenance and development.

Principal Search

The selectmen's representative to the Heath Elementary Principal Search Committee is Brian DeVriese. The search has moved into the interview phase with four candidates having been selected by the committee for interviews.

These are a few of the issues being considered by the BOS. Public attendance at the meetings has been light. It seems that the townspeople are taking the summer off. We are unable to do likewise and eagerly await everyone's return.

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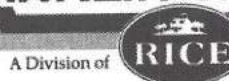
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HEATH UNION CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Colin Lucid

Exodus 14:14 says "The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." This is a very powerful verse of scripture which tells us that the only plan of action for our lives' battles is to allow God to be God of our lives. We can rest in Him and watch as He unfolds his plan for our everyday living while trusting in His complete care.

"Heathens' Heavenly Delights" will once again be offered at the Heath Fair as part of our Church Restoration Fund fund-raiser. Please visit our booth as we will offer many sweets and pies, eggplant subs, Shepherd's Pie and much more. Our tee-shirts will also be on sale during the fair.

In other church news, we were delighted to dedicate Riley Holden to the Lord. We had a great time with Vacation Bible School. Thanks to parents for sending your children. Two of these children received Jesus into their hearts and now have the gift of eternal life. Girls' Friendship Club visited Lake Champlain, and we give our special thanks to Dave and Phyllis Thane for the use of their cottage. We are continuing with the club throughout the summer.

YOU ARE INVITED

Our Summer schedule is as follows:

Sunday worship service: 9:00 a.m.

Children's church: 9:00 a.m.

Youth Group: 3:30 p.m. Sundays at Heath School.
Bring your favorite snack
and wear sneakers. Ages 6th grade
through high school are invited.

Bible Study and prayer: Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
at the parsonage.

Monthly prayer meeting: The 1st and 3rd Thursday of each
month at the parsonage at
7:00 p.m. You are invited.

Girls' Friendship Club meets every Friday at Diane
Crowningshield's home from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Girls in grades
3 - 8 are invited.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fair. We pray
that you will all have a blessed and safe summer season.

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PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

by Pegge Howland

Percolation Tests

Ray Pettengill reports that eight new perc tests were
conducted in June. Four passed and four failed.

Building Permits

No building permits were issued this period.

Deed Transfers

Mary A. Girard of Simsbury, CT, to Michael A.
Simsbury, CT. Number Nine Road. No consideration.

Kenneth J. and Kristine M. Royer, by United Bank,
to Bruce J. and Karen Foote of Springfield. 161 Branch
Hill Road, \$8,900.

Raymond J. Galipo of Wilmington, VT and Pamela
K. Galipo of Worcester to Pamela K. (Galipo) Centilli of
Worcester. Branch Hill Road, 3 acres. Less than \$100.

Daniel and Susan Hevey of Belchertown to Robert
J. Sterling and Shirley A. Carignan of West Springfield. 21
Papoose Lake Drive, \$20,000.

Maynard D. and Cynthia Forette to Gennaro Di
Benedetto of Springfield. Lot 12, Papoose Drive.
\$10,000.

Harvey D. and Mary Stannard Carter to Calvin C.
and Janis M. Carr of Asheville, NC. 35 Hosmer Road.
\$318,000.

Lucia J. Finck to Lucia J. Finck, Trustee. Route 8-
A, State Farm Road, 22 acres. No consideration.

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(Heath Fair News continued from page 1)

town. The Beemers want to come back on an annual basis contingent on the installation of showers. We hope this will happen. One highlight of the Beemers Rally was the appearance of local celebrity Carroll B. Stowe in his best known role of storyteller. He told the Beemers, "I'm gonna tell you about things you never knew existed," and, boy o boy, did he!

The annual horse draw on the last weekend in June was the biggest and best in years, and everyone was delighted with it. The draw ran back-to-back with Phil O'Reilly's going away party which was a bittersweet experience for all of us who attended.

Looking ahead, we have tentatively entered into an agreement to host a bluegrass festival and fiddle contest on the third weekend of September. This may also turn out to be an annual event and one both in keeping with fair traditions as well as being an economic boost to the town.

The music lineup for this year's fair is one of the best ever with a selection of everything from reggae to polka, bluegrass to the Shelburne Falls Marching Band. Eric Goodchild who has become a fair staple will be on hand Sunday to march in the parade with his bagpipes.

Adjacent to the cattle judging barn will be the beginning of what we hope will grow to be another fair staple, a baby barnyard where children can meet, feed, and pet farm animals.

This year we're bringing back the working farm horse class which will be held on Saturday in the horse show arena. Anyone who wants more information about this event or would like to participate should contact Carroll Stowe.

I will be managing a horse show on Sunday, a job I have held for three years from which I am planning to resign after this year's show. This means in order to maintain what has become a very high quality, small, local show, we need to find a person or, better yet, persons willing to take this over. It is not a hard job and is lots of fun but it is conflicting with my other fair duties. Whoever takes on this responsibility will inherit a staff of enthusiastic people who have been involved for several years and who do an excellent job helping with the show.

This will be the second year I am offering a special fudge prize in the exhibit hall. The first attempt last year was a great success. Death by chocolate is a great way to go.

When you come to the fair be sure to go over and take a look when Steve Marcotte is doing the sheep shearing demonstrations. This was very popular last year, and this year, Steve has lined up enough clients to do several demonstrations during the fair.

Above all, it is the people who make the fair work. The list is a long and familiar one, and in the next Heath Herald, I'll get in all your names. For now, I want to thank Steve Marcotte and Carroll Stowe especially for their timely and thorough mowing of the grounds.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

by Joanne Fortune

The Friends of the Heath Public Library will host our Annual Book Sale at the Heath Fair. On the West side of the midway, we will be selling used hardcover books for .50 and paperbacks for .25. If you have any books you would like to donate, please call Joanne at 337-5716. We will again be sponsoring our exciting raffle. Last year's raffle included such treasures as a star gazing party, jewelry, gift certificates, handmade items, etc.

We hope you have a great time at the fair!

CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANTS DUE

Grant applications are due to the Heath Cultural Council by Friday, October 15, 1999. The HCC will hold an informational meeting in the very near future at the Heath Free Public Library. There will be another meeting for council members to discuss new state allocation guidelines, as well as to decide upon a new slate of officers. Contact Laurie at 337-4302 for more information or an application.

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ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Henry Leuchtman

Last issue we delved into the confusing world of land values in Heath. If you have questions about the value of your land — either from your tax bill or from reading that confusing article — please give us a call at the office on Monday mornings between 9:30AM and Noon at 337-4934.

For the past few years, we've been using the state Department of Revenue's CAMA (computer-assisted mass appraisal) system which is installed on the PC in our office. The state paid a lot of money to develop the software, and we started using it for the FY96 tax year (FY2000 just started on July 1, 1999). The system is not particularly easy to use and has quite a few deficiencies (for instance, it only records the "book" and "page" number of the most recent sale of a parcel, so we must still maintain that information on paper; or sometimes a barn must be shown as two separate structures because different parts are built in a different way), but it essentially does the job.

We update everyone's records as needed and then send the finalized values on to the tax collector's computer so Betty can run the tax bills in the fall. The process of collecting the data (the changes to buildings and ownership of parcels) is ongoing and we are in the midst now (in July) of updating the computer records. When we've gotten all the changes in, we need to set the levy limit (the limit of how much the town can raise through real estate tax) using the formulas developed under Proposition 2 1/2. We then must set the tax rate based on a combination of the town's budget (what we plan to spend in the new fiscal year), projected state aid, and the final value of real and personal property. When all of this is done, tax bills can go out.

Last year we managed to get through this process quite quickly and got the tax bills out early enough that taxpayers weren't confronted with bills due at Christmastime. This year it may be a bit more complicated as the town has passed a level-funded budget at town meeting which doesn't take into account the large increase in school costs. We'll see.

So, how do we assess the value of a structure? Before the computer system was installed we used a standard manual of values (Marshall and Swift) which contained tables of values for various types of buildings. The value of a structure is supposed to be the "replacement cost new less depreciation". This means that even though you built your house for \$15,000 thirty years ago, we must assess it as to how much it would cost to replace it now, less depreciation.

With the CAMA system, it is a simple process (more or less) to calculate values. We get the measurements of the building, note the number of stories, rooms, baths, type of construction materials used on the roof, walls, foundation etc. and put them into the system. The Marshall and Swift tables are built right into it. The system calculates the replacement

cost (for the number of square feet we have entered) for that type of construction and does the depreciation calculations.

When we converted to the computer system, our consultant had his staff enter the values from our property record cards into the new computer records. They did a good job but not 100%, so three years later we are still catching errors, some due to simple misinterpretation of our records. Again, if you see what you think is an error on your tax bill, please contact us as soon as possible.

Since then, we have gone out "viewing" every spring to update our records. We view 1/5th of all structures in town every year, which this exceeds the requirements of the Department of Revenue. We also view every building permit site. Since not everyone gets a permit for all of the things that will effect value, we must view all of the buildings in town on a rotating basis, noting changes as we go.

If you've built a new building and we come to visit, the first thing we ask is "How much was complete on January 1st?" This is because all assessments are done as of that day, both with regard to the status of the structures and the ownership of the parcel. We don't go out in January to look at structures because, frankly, it's a little difficult to do in this town at that time of year.

Our system is not perfect, and we depend on feedback from the taxpayers to make it as accurate as possible. We appreciate everyone's patience.

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GOALS 2000

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

This is not just another way to make it through this New Year's Eve! "Goals 2000 Families and School Working Together" is a three-year grant being implemented at the Heath Elementary School. While it appears to be a broad, sweeping grant, which allows as many possibilities as there are creative ideas, it is grounded in the very real framework of the school's curriculum, which in turn is mandated by the state curriculum framework.

Key to the grant, according to Grant Coordinator Mary Vilbon, is that any programs supported by the grant need to increase parental involvement within the school. Programs and activities may be held in other locations around the town and in other areas, as long as the school's curriculum is supported. Twofold, this grant has a good chance of fostering of connections within the overall community.

Ms. Vilbon and an advisory committee comprised of staff, parents, choice parents and community members meet on a regular basis to discuss project proposals and to note progress on current projects.

A few ideas which have to date been approved by the advisory committee and Ms. Vilbon, and which are felt to "tie in" nicely with the school's curriculum are: community quilting club, the first project of which is an historic quilt that will be created with input from the students who will be studying local history this year; adult education classes; after-school programs, such as french lessons, cooking, painting, creating clothing; various sports and arts programs;. These are but a few ideas; other proposals are under consideration.

According to Ms. Vilbon, "if a community member would love to see an idea happen, I would love to sit down and talk about it. There is an excitement in this town and we just need to draw it out, little by little." Ms. Vilbon's excitement about the project is contagious. While she is very clear about the need to enhance the school curriculum with the grant projects, she also sees the projects as ways to



The Way It Is In The Country

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

by Carroll Stowe

A DURABLE MACHINE

This short story took place some years back. It concerns the Town of Heath and an old piece of equipment in the form of an old model A Ford pickup.

This small truck had outlived its usefulness and the town selectboard at the time, some time in the early 1950's, decided to advertise for bids on this old truck.

The Stowes had long used model A vehicles and could see a use for this old town truck. I have no idea how much my father bid for this old vehicle but his was the successful bid, and we straight away proceeded to get this vintage iron out of the old horse sheds which were the town sheds at that point in time.

This truck had not been driven in some time. The battery was 100% flat and was of no use to the starting of the truck so we sent out to tow the vehicle home with our 1939 Pontiac Cat. We elected to go by way of Colrain Brook Road as it was the simplest way to get home. I was allowed to steer and brake the truck as we set off for home in West Colrain.

So as not to have to ride the brakes all the way, I put the truck in second gear and let the turning of the engine hold it back some. I had thought to turn the switch on and probably turned the gas on also. As we got in the area of Bill Lattrell's home now the engine started to fire a bit. Apparently the battery had started to take a charge by the engine turning and the further we traveled it began running on its own.

I have no idea how long this unit had been without running but all things were seeming to function so we unhitched the chain. I continued on without further help and arrived without a problem. That old gas in a vehicle of today would not fire or even attempt to but that truck ran very well on that vintage fuel.

I remember using that little truck to clean the horse barn the next morning. We used that little old vehicle rather a lot. Then someone found out about it and had to have it so it left the Stowe farm and someone else hopefully had it to enjoy. Truly a very durable piece of machinery. I have no idea where it could be today.



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Saturdays 8:30AM - 5PM

Sundays & Holidays 9AM - 12 Noon

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HEATH STUDENTS SEND SUPPLIES TO KOSOVO

by Deborah Phillips

The children and parents of the Heath Elementary School raised over \$90.00 for Gift of the Heart School Kits which were sent to the children of Kosovo. Members of the sixth grade class purchased basic supplies such as paper, pencils and crayons at Staples and sent them along in care of the Church World Service organization. Heath resident and K-1 school teacher Deb Porter was instrumental in making this connection.



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PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

by Pegge Howland

Percolation Tests

Ray Pettengill reports that eight new perc tests were conducted in June. Four passed and four failed.

Building Permits

No building permits were issued this period.

Deed Transfers

Mary A. Girard of Simsbury, CT, to Michael A. Simsbury, CT. Number Nine Road. No consideration.

Kenneth J. and Kristine M. Royer, by United Bank, to Bruce J. and Karen Foote of Springfield. 161 Branch Hill Road, \$8,900.

Raymond J. Galipo of Wilmington, VT and Pamela K. Galipo of Worcester to Pamela K. (Galipo) Centilli of Worcester. Branch Hill Road, 3 acres. Less than \$100.

Daniel and Susan Hevey of Belchertown to Robert J. Sterling and Shirley A. Carignan of West Springfield. 21 Papoose Lake Drive, \$20,000.

Maynard D. and Cynthia Forette to Gennaro Di Benedetto of Springfield. Lot 12, Papoose Drive. \$10,000.

Harvey D. and Mary Stannard Carter to Calvin C. and Janis M. Carr of Asheville, NC. 35 Hosmer Road. \$318,000.

Lucia J. Finck to Lucia J. Finck, Trustee. Route 8-A, State Farm Road, 22 acres. No consideration.

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Brian's Carpentry
Building/Remodeling
337-4347

Nancy Burrington
Evergreen Information
337-4425

Cable's Burnt Hill
Blueberries
337-4454

James Cerone
Builder
337-4210

Coursey Design
Interior architecture, design
& decoration - 337-4751

D.C. Builders
Branch Hill Road
337-4705

Robert Delisle
Electrician
337-5716

Russel E. Donelson
Design / Construction / Cabinetry
337-4460

Girard-Peters
SUGAR HOUSE
337-5501

Earl M. Gleason
Fire Equipment
337-4948

Heath Brook Studio
Glass and baskets
337-5736

L & S Enterprises
Leisure Furniture Manufacturer
337-5505

Patricia Lentz
Indigo Glassworks
337-5375

Maple Ledge Farm
Maple Syrup Year Round
337-4705

John Mooney
Custom Remodeling
337-8344

Wanda Mooney
Realtor
337-8344

Alan Nichols
Furniture Maker
337-6665

Russlin Saw
Power Equipment
Sales & Service
337-8704

Richard Steinbock
Graphic Design
337-4746

Stor-A-Dor Corp.
Pocket door hardware designs
337-0211

Sunny Day
BLUEBERRY FARM
Burnt Hill
337-8369

Phyllis E. Thane
Book Binding
337-4759

Tripp's Blueberries
Taylor Brook Road
337-4964

Paul Turnbull
Janice Boudreau
Commercial / Wedding
Photographers
337-4033

Bonnie Wodin
Custom Gardens & Landscapes
337-5529

Support Your Local Businesses

If you would like more information about how to become a member of the Heath Enterprise Council,
please call Alicia Tripp at 337-4964

Heath Fair 1999 Schedule and Program

August 19, 20, 21, and 22 1999

Thursday, August 19

Exhibits are accepted between 4 and 8 p.m.

Friday, August 20, 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

- Exhibit Hall is open from 5 p.m.- 9 p.m.
- Pony Pull Begins at 5 p.m.
- New England Folk Music with Yankee Notions* 5-7 p.m.
- Kiddie Pedal Tractor Pull- 6 p.m.
- 4x4 Truck Pull - 7 p.m.
- Rock 'n Roll Oldies - 9:30-11 p.m.
- Midway, Concessions, Food and Rides, 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Saturday, August 21, 8:30 a.m. to midnight

- Adult Sheep Show - 10 a.m.
- Exhibit Hall is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Adult Cattle Show - 11 a.m.
- Horse Draw - 11 a.m.
- Heath Fire Dept.'s Famous Chicken Barbecue - 12 noon
- Bluegrass with Maple Ridge - 12:30-2:30 p.m.
- Children's Games - 3 p.m.
- Dixieland Jazz with King Phillip Dixieland Band* - 3-6 p.m.
- Abdul Baki Reggae - 6:30 - 9 p.m.
- Square Dance in Cattle Barn - 8 p.m. to midnight
("Catamount Mountain Boys with Doug Wilkins calling)
- Huge Fireworks Show - 9:30 p.m. (Rain date Sunday, 9:30 p.m.)
- Trailer Park "New Orleans Rock & Blues" -After Fireworks to closing
- Midway, Concessions, Food and Rides, 8:30 a.m. to midnight

*sponsored by the Heath Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council

Sunday, August 22, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- Horse Show - 8 a.m. to evening
- Exhibit Hall is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Ox Draw - 9 a.m.
- Church Service - 9:30 a.m.
- Youth Sheep Show - 10 a.m.
- Chicken Barbecue - 12 noon
- Parade - 1 p.m.

Shelburne Falls Military Band Concert - 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Polka with Eddie Foreman Orchestra - 2:30 -5 p.m.

Midway, Concessions, Food and Rides, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

.....
Born May 27, a son, **Benjamin Earle** to Connie Purington and Dohn Sherman of Rowe. Grandson of **Roberta and Roger Purrington** of Heath, and Ruth and Floyd Sherman of Charlemont.

Born June 1, a son, **Chandler Michael** to **Nicole Brown and Michael Platek** of Heath. Grandson of Donna and James Stone Sr. of Warren, VT, Gloria Platek of Turners falls, MA and John Platek of Petersham, MA. Great grandson of Marion and Roger Pearce of Shelburne, MA and Nancy Burnelle of Turners Falls, MA.

Born July 6, a daughter, Sara Gabrielle to Mary E. (Almeida) and Clif Paige of Rowe. Granddaughter of **Joseph Almeida** of Heath, Jackie Vallee of Bernardston, MA, Cliff Paige Jr. of Southwick, MA, and John Vallee of Chicoppe, MA. Great granddaughter of Grace and Manuel Almeida of Fairhaven, CT and Hild and Leo Cormier of Acushnet, MA.

Born June 13, a son, Jesse Safford to Alvin and Maude White of Oneida, NJ. Grandson of **Katherine and George Harris** of Heath and Brooklyn, NY.

.....
M. Alice Smith, 83, of Heath, died May 3 at home. She was born in Fall River, Oct. 3, 1915, the daughter of Arthur and Marie Bolduc. She moved to Colrain, MA as a child and was educated in Colrain schools. She was a member of the St. Joseph's Church in Shelburne Falls, MA. She leaves behind her husband of 57 years, Gilbert C. Smith; five sons, Peter G. of Colrain, Arthur K. of South Hadley, Timothy J. of Tucson, AZ, Greal of Greenfield, and Omar of Monroe Bridge; two daughters, **Claire Rabbitt** of Heath, and Jacqueline Tiffany of Forest Hill, CA; two sisters, Marie May of North Miami, FL and Rita Shensky of Torrance, CA; nine grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Services were held in Shelburne Falls with Rev. John A. Roache officiating. Burial was in North Heath Cemetery.

Claude F. Lively, 79, of South Hero, VT died June 7, 1999. He was born in Heath, the son of Medric and Eleanore Lively. He attended school in Heath and farmed with his father before moving to Easthampton where he lived for 40 years. He and his wife, the former Germaine Giard, moved to South Hero three years ago to live with their son Jude Lively. Besides his wife and son he leaves five other sons; Joseph of Moscow, VT, John of Whately, MA, Jamie of Southampton, MA, Jason of Holyoke, MA and Judson of Easthampton; three brothers, Armand of North Adams, MA, Rev. Joseph of St. Johnsbury, VT, and **Frederick** of Heath; two sisters, Marion Dandeneau of Rowe and Lenita Brennan of Littleton, M; six grandchildren, a great granddaughter, and several nieces and nephews. Services were in Shelburne Falls, MA with burial at the convenience of the family.

Janet Grinnell, 85, of San Diego, CA, died June 20, 1999. She was born in Columbus, OH, the daughter of Smauel and Echoe Goodfellow. She was a professional singer. She leaves behind her husband Gordon Grinnell of San Diego and a son, **Eric Grinnell** of Heath. There were no services and burial will be in Heath.

Levi R. Lively, 56, died July 3, 1999 in Pottstown, PA. He was born in Heath, MA May 25, 1943, the son of Roland and Marie-Reine Lively. He was a 1962 graduate of Arms Academy. He served with the Army from 1962-1965 and was stationed in Germany. Survivors include his wife, the former Rosalind Gottshall; three sons, Richard S. of Reading, Benjamin K. of Hawaii, and Roland L. of Pottstown; six brothers, Bernard of Williamstown, MA, **Paul Lively and Thomas Lively** of Heath, Felix of Canton, CT, Hormides of Greenfield, and Michael of North Adams; a sister Mary, of Ocean Grove, NJ; and a granddaughter. Services and burial were in Pottstown, PA.

People in the News

.....
Congratulations to **Jessica Skiathis** of Heath, who graduated from Greenfield Community College on June 6, 1999.

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

by Robert Dane

The Heath Open Space Preservation Committee is a new group which was initially formed as part of the Visioning Project for the Heath Master Plan. Through the visioning process we learned that one of the primary concerns in most people's minds is the preservation of the rural character and landscape of Heath. Now that the latest visioning project is complete, our group has decided to continue meeting and take some action to help reach those goals.

We have been working with Mark Zenick of the Franklin Land Trust and Rich Hubbard of the State Agricultural Office to gather and disseminate information for landowners regarding the options they have to preserve their land from residential development and sprawl. So far we have held two informational meetings for landowners and Mark and Rich have met individually with a number of interested people.

We are very pleased to report that two important large pieces of property are well on their way towards permanent preservation. Jack and Beverly Cable's Burnt Hill Blueberry Farm has been accepted into the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program (APR) in which the state buys the development rights from the landowner. Ralph and Howard Dickinson have also agreed to sell the development rights of their land to the Franklin Land Trust as an interim measure towards their application to the APR program. This is very exciting news and a big first step in our preservation efforts. A block application including other parcels of land is more likely to be accepted into the APR program, so we are working to put a group together.

There are up-front costs in managing this activity, such as for the purchase of an appraisal to determine the market value of the property. Bridge funding will be needed to secure protection of properties until state funding becomes

available. As the Franklin Land Trust has shown, there is a rich variety of ways to meet the landowner's needs while ensuring permanent protection of our beautiful landscapes in Heath. It is likely that private, tax exempt contributions will be needed to retire the development rights on properties which do not meet the standards of the APR Program. We are committed to developing the capacity for receiving private gifts which will preserve the landscapes so important to Heath's rural integrity. We would like to work with the Franklin Land Trust as a Heath Land Trust sub-section. This would allow us to have our own identity, our own committed fund and the ability to use the experience and expertise of Mark Zenick, who directs the Franklin Land Trust.

We expect to have a booth at the Heath Fair to answer questions and to start to gather funds to support our efforts. We hope that everyone will be able to help us in some way to preserve the rural character of this community we love.

If you have any questions and would like to help out in some way, please call Bob Dane at 337-5736.

LIBRARY SURVEY

The Library will be conducting a written survey to gather information and comments on how the community would like to see its library grow. Responses from the survey will help determine YOUR library's future!

Surveys will be made available to all residents and will be distributed in several locations about town.

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