



VOLUME 21 NUMBER 6 FEBRUARY/MARCH 2000

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

75¢

THE JOY OF READING ALOUD

by Pat Leuchtman

The vision of a young child curled up with a parent for a bedtime story is a staple icon of our idea of the happy family. Rightfully so. The bedtime story gives parent and child a quiet time together when they can attend to each other and turn their hearts and minds to the same story.

However, for most of us, those sweet bedtimes end as children learn to read for themselves. This is unfortunate because reading aloud, and listening to reading aloud, is a pleasure that does not end when one is six or seven - or thirty or fifty - or ever.

I was particularly reminded of this truth recently. In my hat as Buckland Librarian I have been visiting Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School and reading to six different classes. The kindergarten, first grade and third grade teachers each had a different aspect of the curriculum they wanted me to focus on. The three fourth grades were studying the ancient civilizations. For them I chose to read about the Greeks.

We began with a tale of the Trojan Horse and how it ended the Trojan war. Then I read them the story of Ulysses, on his way home from the Trojan War, stopping at the Island of the Cyclops with his crew. Of course, the story is familiar to us. Ulysses and his men are imprisoned by Polyphemus who proceeds to eat two men at each meal. Ulysses and his men then blind the Cyclops, get him drunk, and in the morning escape clutching the underbellies of the Cyclops' sheep when he opens his cave to take them to pasture. Ulysses has identified himself as No Man, and when the other Cyclops ask who blinded him, Polyphemus answers No Man - one of the great literary jokes.

Later I read them more tales of Ulysses' trip home - Circe's island, the twin monsters Scylla and Charybdis, and Calypso. I expected these fourth graders, and so many of them were boys, to be blasé and jaded, but they listened raptly and wanted to share their own stories. One boy said he was an expert on Perseus and another boy wanted to hear stories about Hercules.

(continued on page 14)

DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION FORUM

by Rol Hesselbart

On Saturday, March 18, the Deerfield River Watershed Association is offering an educational forum at Mohawk Trail Regional High School from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to have your questions answered by resource specialists and learn about issues that affect the health of the Deerfield River Watershed and your local community.

Robert Durand, Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs, is scheduled to be the keynote speaker. Workshop sessions will include: Stewardship for Homeowners, River Use, Threats to the Watershed, Wildlife, Toxic Spills, Water Quality, and Open Space. There will also be informative displays and exhibits available for viewing.

The \$5.00 registration fee includes lunch. Call (413) 773-7899 for registration information.

DEADLINES FOR TOWN ELECTIONS

- March 15 Last day to obtain nomination papers for any office.
- March 20 Last day to submit papers to the town clerk.
- April 1 Last day to file objection or withdrawals.
- April 15 Last day to register for voting in town elections and in the annual town meeting.
- May 5 Town Elections! Polls are open from 12 noon to 7 p.m. at the Heath Community Hall.
- May 6 Annual Town Meeting begins at 9 a.m. sat the Community Hall.

In this issue.....

Land Preservation Letter	page 3
Cell Tower Moratorium	page 4
School Happenings	page 5
Selectmen's Notes	page 6
Milestones	page 15
Looking Forward To....	page 16

Editor's Note...

February is for me, and for many people I know, one of the most difficult months to "plow through", every pun intended! This year's post-holiday-adrenaline-crash was made a lot tougher with the passing on of a large number of our community members. Some had only recently moved to Heath, while others had long-standing relationships with all of us. Many of these fine people had been with us long enough to have become part of our town's own folklore, with tales of good deeds, of people they remembered, or, even, their tales of notoriety. Some, who had recently become "heathens," had lives that read like stories in a book. All lead lives which, although separated by only a few years from many of the rest of us, already are tinted with the sepia-tones of history. This generation is one which saw so very much during humankind's past 100 years. Their tales are irreplaceable, and to be treasured, for the people who helped weave them, and for the insight they give us to our past. Need I say, they will be missed!

As the lives of those who knew these people were altered, so are other lives in other venues of life in this town. A number of people who have stopped by the library have noted that they cannot believe how many people are going through one sort of transformation or another. It isn't always easy while in the midst. We do live in interesting times! I know, I have said that before.

At the newspaper we too are undergoing change. We are looking for two individuals to take over the positions of Managing Editor, and Layout and Design, as I am taking time away for vocational and educational reasons. Job descriptions are available at the Library.

With any luck, we will have two new someone's "on board" for next issue, to join an already excellent and dedicated group of individuals. My best wishes to these folks!

Be Well,

-Laurie Wheeler Burrington

GOOD NEIGHBORS

Budge Litchfield - co-chair (413-337-4957)
Veronica A. Smead - co-chair (413 -337-5389)

The Good Neighbors Committee would like to thank Heath residents for their generous support of our efforts in 1999 and for the new year.

Good Neighbors, which conducts six distributions annually serving some 45 families in the towns of Rowe, Heath, Charlemont, and Hawley, held its most generous Christmas distribution yet thanks to support throughout Franklin County. Because each fourteen cents donated provides a pound of food from the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts in Hatfield, we find we are in a position to continue the service at existing or possibly greater levels this year.

ALANSON'S ALMANAC

	Precipitation	Snow
Jan.	634	21
Feb.	227	5.5
Mar.	644	13
Apr.	56	
May	590	
June	272	
July	296	
Aug.	291	
Sept.	953	
Oct.	444	
Nov.	303	
Dec.	175	.5

Think Spring!

HEATH HERALD HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

Managing Editor & Layout	Laurie Burrington
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Robert Gear	Karen Moore
Bill Latrell	Pat Leuchtman
Alan Nichols	Ray Pettengill
Edith Royer	Carroll Stowe

The Heath Herald is published six times a year in April, June, August, October, December, and February.

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ADVERTISING RATES – Display ads: \$4.80 per column inch (discounts on six or more insertions)

CLASSIFIED ADS - \$2.00 per line.

Send all correspondence to:

The Heath Herald, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346-0054.

LETTERS

(The following letter, prepared by The Heath Land Preservation Committee, and reprinted in almost its entirety, has been mailed out to many of Heath's townspeople. This group is comprised of Bob Dane, Dave Freeman, Jack Cable, Dick Gary, Bill Gran, Del Viarengo, Alastair Maitland.)

Dear Friend of Heath,

The Heath Land Preservation Committee in partnership with the Franklin Land Trust has an opportunity to permanently preserve the Dickinson Farm on South Road. As we all know, this farm is an important part of our view of Heath. It is a beautiful sight as we drive into Heath Center. The farm and the Dickinson Brothers are wonderful reminders of our rural life and the spirit of the Town of Heath. We feel that it is of the highest importance to save this farm from development.

The Visioning/Town Plan Project of last year reported virtually unanimous agreement by the many participants on the importance of preserving the rural character of Heath by encouraging open land preservation and striving to protect scenic outlooks and vistas. As a result, the Open Space Task Force of the Visioning Committee has reformed as the Heath Land Preservation Committee. We are now a subcommittee of the Franklin Land Trust, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of western Franklin County's farmland, open space, and rural character. As a subcommittee of the Land Trust we retain our own identity and maintain a separate budget, while drawing on the expertise and experience of Mark Zenick, the director of the Land Trust.

The response to the Visioning Committee's report was immediate and very encouraging. Landowners came forward seeking information about how to preserve their land from development. Among the first to seek advice and assistance were Ralph and Howard Dickinson. There are two primary means of preserving land; the State's Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program (APR), and Conservation Restriction

tions. The Dickinsons are applying to the State for an Agricultural Preservation Restriction. If they are accepted, they will sell the development rights to the State. This will effectively preserve their land in perpetuity.

The APR Program is currently in great demand as a means to save our dwindling land resources. While the Dickinson's application is expected to be approved shortly, the lag time between acceptance into the APR Program and payment for the development rights is now three years. In order to bridge this gap, the Franklin Land Trust and the Heath Land Preservation Committee have jointly decided to seek to raise funds to buy the Dickinsons' development rights as a short-term measure, pending reimbursement from the state. To this end we have established a Land Preservations Fund.

We are now asking all the friends of Heath to help with this important project.

The best way for you to help is to make a donation or pledge of money to our fund. We believe it is important to save as much of the rural landscape of Heath as is possible, and we have established a revolving fund to preserve land in Heath. When the State buys the development rights to the Dickinsons' land the Land Trust will be reimbursed by the State, and donations will be recycled to preserve more land in Heath. Our long term goal is to preserve as much of Heath as possible from development. Your donation would help others in addition to the Dickinsons.

Another way you could help is to make a no interest loan to our fund. Your loan would be repaid when the State buys the development rights to the Dickinson land from the Land Trust. If ten people loaned \$1000. per year for three years this would achieve our most immediate goal.

The third way to help us achieve our long-term goals is to place a Conservation Restriction on your own land.

Our first priority is to raise \$100,000. or \$20,000. per year for the next five years. We are looking for gifts of any size to help us reach our goal. We have already made good progress toward our goals. We have received \$21,000. in interest free loans, together with \$4000. in donations. But of course, this is just the beginning. Please consider being part of the preservation of Heath with your donation or loan. All donations are tax-deductible, and could be beneficial in your estate and tax planning. More information about these options can be had from members of the Heath Land Preservation Committee, and in great detail from Mark Zenick of the Franklin Land Trust.

Now it is time for us to resolve to mobilize our resources. The effort has already begun, but there remains much to do. For those of us who love Heath and the Dickinsons, this is a wonderful opportunity. Ralph and Howard have again shown us that they are leaders of our community by their generous and warmhearted spirit, and their desire to see their land preserved. Please help them and the rest of our community reach our goals with your generous donations, pledges, or loans.

We need to hear from you by March 1, 2000.

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ELDERLY AND VETERAN EXEMPTION INFORMATION

by Don Dekker

Because the State was late in setting its budget, and the Town had to wait until recently for the "Pothole" amount for the school, the Assessors have not been able to set a tax rate at the usual time. As soon as a special town meeting is held, and the budget is approved, the Assessors will set the tax rate. It will of course be higher. Everyone will know how much higher when they get their May 1 bill.

As soon as possible after the bills are printed and the amount owed is known, the Assessors will send the abatement form to each elderly person and/or veteran showing how much money they will owe on their taxes.

If you have any questions please call the Assessors any Monday morning from 9:30 a.m.- 12 noon at the Town Hall.

NOTES FROM THE TOWN COORDINATOR

Town boards and committees are reminded that their Annual Reports for the 1999 Town Report are due by March 3, 2000. Please call Liz Johnson at the town office for formatting information.

Budget hearings are being held with the Finance Committee, every Tuesday night from 7-8:30 p.m. upstairs at Sawyer Hall. All town departments are asked to call the finance committee or town coordinator to schedule an appointment. The final date for hearings will be until March 7, 2000.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The town will be holding a Special Town Meeting on Monday, March 27, 2000, concerning a proposed moratorium on the construction and placement of cellular towers. A vote will be taken at the meetings. For more information contact Planning Board member Deborah Phillips, or any other member of that board.

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HEATH EMERGENCY SERVICES NEWS

by Timothy Lively

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

11/28/99 - Sumner Stetson Road - Medical
11/28/99 - Number Nine Road - Medical
12/3/99 - Flagg Hill Road - Medical
12/13/99 - Taylor Brook Road - Medical
12/15/99 - East Main Street - Motor Vehicle Collision
12/29/99 - Flagg Hill Road - Medical

1999 was a very busy year. We responded to a total of forty-five EMT calls. Of those, thirty-eight were Medical, and 7 were Accidents. We also had four Stand-by calls (smoke in house, and storm coverage).

Heath's First Responders/Firemen who assist at these calls are:

Chief Mike Smith	Bob Gruen	Bob Tanner
Dave Cote	Budge Litchfield	Gary Singley
Earl Gleason	Richards Steinbock	Mike Wilmeth
Walt Gleason	Anne Steinbock	Steve Bigelow

Thank you for your help, it's greatly appreciated.

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HEATH SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWS

by Mary Beth O'Dea

The BMX Bike Assembly held at the school December 10th was a huge success! It was an afternoon of entertainment and learning as extreme athletes, Myke Yeager and Chris Poulas, came to show off their stunts and speak about the dangers of drugs, alcohol, and smoking and reinforcing the importance of bike safety. The show included a fashion show of safety equipment. Students volunteered to strut their stuff around the gym wearing several different types of helmets, gloves, knee and shin pads. It seems as though the highlight of the show was watching Myke Yeager jump his bike over police chief Lorin Gowdy and 4/5 grade teacher Mary Culver as they lay motionless on the gym floor! Many thanks to all who participated and/or helped out in any way.

We are in the process of purchasing a new sound system for the school thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor from Heath and \$1000 from the Partnership Fund. This system will be used in many ways throughout the school, including for all school meetings. A special thanks to Joel Porter-DeVriese for his time and professional advice in helping us to purchase the right system for our needs and for the needs of the community at large.

Looking for a fun night out? Join us on Friday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Heath School gymnasium as we step back in time to the 40s, 50s, and 60s and dance the night away. Disc Jockey "Bobby C" from WHAI in Greenfield will provide the music. There will be a swing contest and a twist-off. The dining room will become a pizza and soda shop thanks to our 6th grade class. Money raised will benefit their trip to Maine. Admission will be \$1.00. So gals, put on those poodle skirts and guys, grease back that hair and come on down to "Heathdale High." Costuming is always encouraged but never mandatory. This event is sponsored by the Heath School Community Partnership and the Heath Police Department.

The Heath Variety Show 2000 is in its planning stages. Show dates are Saturday, March 25, and Sunday, March 26. Look for further information around town as we get closer to these dates.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

by Karen Moore

As this issue goes to press the Finance Committee is planning the budget process for fiscal year 2001. A special meeting was held of the Finance Committee and Tim Robinson, town accountant, on January 19th to establish budget forms and to lay out a calendar of hearings with the various town departments. Goals this year include examining spending trends in departments for the past few years and projecting Capital expenditures for the next three years. The objective is to put more planning and continuity into the process if possible.

In the meantime we have continued to work closely with the Board of Selectmen to track oversight of this year's budget and look forward to hearing the results of the town's application for Pothole funding. Many thanks to Dave Howland and Liz Johnson for their efforts in completing this application.

Please don't hesitate to Call Karen Moore at 337-4206 if you have any questions or suggestions for the Finance Committee.

Do you like to write? Or perhaps photograph your town? Enjoy graphics and design? Give any of the Heath Herald staff members a call if you are interested in joining our town's first newspaper!

If you have ideas for columns or stories let us know. We'd be happy to hear from you.



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SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by the Heath Board of Selectmen
(Thomas Lively- chair, Brian deVriese, Charles Mackie)

The Board of Selectmen meets every Tuesday night at 7:00p.m. in the basement of the Community Hall

Pothole Application Money

The Board of Selectmen with much appreciated assistance from David Howland and Liz Johnson have prepared an application to the State for a share of the Foundation Reserve Program or "Pothole Money" as it is commonly called. The Board of Selectmen met with David to review and approve the application for submission before the 12/27/99 deadline. We have received these funds in the past and they have been used to reduce the tax rate. This year they are important to offsetting the huge increase in the Mohawk School District assessment. Notification of the approval of our application should be coming by the end of the month of January. We wish to express our deepest gratitude to David Howland for the tremendous effort that he puts into assisting the Town in managing its finances and representing the Town on the Mohawk Municipal Advisory Committee. He is Heath's equivalent of Alan Greenspan and we can't imagine what we would do without him!

Town Building Facilities Committee

The Board of Selectmen has met to discuss a number of projects regarding town buildings. A priority list is being developed for the most pressing repair projects and a plan for addressing them has begun to be implemented. Flooding in the basement of Sawyer Hall and a malfunctioning heating system are two of the problems receiving attention at the moment. Leaking roofs and windows are next on the list.

Joint Meetings with the Finance Committee

The Board of Selectmen has continued to hold joint meetings with the Finance Committee to work out the current fiscal year's budget and to plan for the FY2001 budget. A Special Town Meeting will be held to approve the FY2000 budget sometime after we receive notification about our application for the "Pothole Money".

Round Table Meeting

The board of Selectmen has called another Roundtable meeting on February 1, 2000 of all Town Boards and others to help everyone to become familiar with the issues before each Board or office holder.

FRTA Bus to Heath

The details of bus service to Heath are still being worked out. The day preferred by most of the prospective riders was Tuesday and apparently this will not be possible due schedule conflicts. The list of potential riders will be contacted regarding a choice of alternate days. We hope to be able to announce the beginning of service soon.

Transfer Station


A telephone has been installed at the Transfer Station. The number is 337-6640.

Town Hall Answering Machine

A new answering machine has been installed at the Town Hall. A message with the hours of various offices is on tape along with voice-mail box selections for leaving messages for individuals at Sawyer Hall.

Heath on Line

The Town now has an email address heath@crocker.com and a domain name www.townofheath.org. Send messages to any board or individual via the e-mail address as the domain is still being set up at this time. The Town's Home page is presently under construction. Thanks to the computer committee for getting this project up and running.



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HEATH FOOD CO-OP

by Co-op Members

Did you know that there is a food co-op in town that orders directly from Northeast Co-operatives? Well there is, and for anyone who regularly purchases good, healthy foods locally this article could save you money.

The Heath Food co-op is looking to expand its membership. By ordering directly from Northeast Co-operatives, you could save up to 60% off the local retail stores' prices. There are two ways to participate in the Heath Food co-op; as an active member, that is someone who orders regularly (once a month) and helps with "break-down," or as a member who orders regularly but does not help with the "break-down." The difference in these ways is the amount of markup you pay. Active members pay a 3% markup, while non-working members pay a 10% markup (this is still a considerable savings).

If you are interested in becoming either type member of our local co-op, please contact Sharon Brower 337-4220 or Judy Thrasher 337-5327 for more information.

SCHOOLS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES WORKING TOGETHER

by Mary Vilbon

The Heath Elementary School is in the process of beginning new and exciting programs. These particular programs are designed to help the students to become stronger student achievers and to assist parents so they have a clear understanding of their child's curriculum and to encourage parent involvement.

Curriculum Nights

The curriculum nights will be held this spring and are designed to invite parents into the school so they can learn more about their child's Math, Language Arts or Social Studies curriculum.

Science Inquiry

Heath resident, Ted Watt, will be facilitating staff and parent workshops for Science Inquiry. He will also be working with the children from preschool through sixth grade.

Native American Studies

Middle teacher Robbie Murphy is coordinating this six-month project that involves staff, parents, students and community members. It will begin with a parent workshop and performance by Native American scholar and singer Marge Bruchac. Throughout the year students and their families will visit the standing stones on Burnt Hill in Heath and late this spring Plimouth Plantation. As an end of the year culmination there will be a construction of an authentic Native American Longhouse on the school premises. Paraprofessional and woodworker Deb Lively will oversee the construction.

These programs are made possible by the Goals 2000 grant the Heath Elementary School was awarded in 1999. The Goals 2000 has also sponsored adult enrichment programs in town. The committee consists of three staff members from the Heath School, three parents, three community members and one grant coordinator.

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HEATH FAIR NEWS

by Robert Gear

The Agricultural Society has been active through the fall and early winter with a variety of projects. The Annual Business Meeting was held in November along with the traditional potluck, during which the incumbent slate of officers was reelected with the exception of the treasurer's position. Our treasurer Darlene Corbiel has resigned. While she was treasurer, Darlene did an exceptional job of reorganizing and maintaining our financial records and left us in better shape than we have ever been in. The Agricultural Society is delighted to welcome Norman Sessions as our new treasurer. Norm is familiar to everyone in Heath and has a long standing record of a variety of achievements with the Franklin County Fair and has long been a supporter of the Heath Fair. All of us on the Agricultural Society Board of Directors are looking forward to working with him.

Many projects are slated for the coming year. Our primary focus is completion of the restoration of the old barn near the silo. This includes: finishing the siding, improving the drainage, making the main room suitable for eating and other uses. In addition, we plan a total rehabilitation of the actual kitchen. We hope that when it is finished, the old building will continue to be a center for both community and fair activities.

Other building projects include cosmetic work on the Rabbit and Chicken Barns, developing the area west of the cattle judging shed for a more permanent Baby Barnyard area, work on the scale shed down at the Pulling Pit, some permanent trail obstacles in the area near the Horse Show Arena, increasing the electrical systems' capacity and doubtless many more small projects. Everyone is encouraged to help us with these efforts. Times and dates of work parties will be announced in future issues of the Herald as well as the West County News.

The Board of Directors recently held a meeting with the officers of the Yankee Beemers, the BMW motorcycle organization which held their 1999 New England Rally at the fairground. This event brought a lot of money into the community. The Beemers were exemplary rentees, and we and they are exploring ways to make this an annual event that will benefit the entire community.

Future fair meetings will be announced in the West County News! Please come and offer your suggestions and talents. We are all looking forward to a really special Year 2000 Heath Fair.

Do you know when the first Heath Fair was held,
and where?
(tune in next issue)

HEATH CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Colin Lucid

I Timothy 2:1-2 says, "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence."

In following this verse' command and to show our deep appreciation to our elected town officials, town employees, and volunteers of our Heath community, our church family would like to thank these men and women and their families with a "Dessert Buffet." This will be held on Friday February 25, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Hall. During this evening we will also present a plaque to the community with recognition and of thanks.

We are pleased to announce that we have started an inter-generational Sunday School. The topic of study is "the chief end of man." The purpose of this study is to help us gain a greater understanding of our faith through the use of the Shorter Catechism and dialogue among different age groups. Bruce Stetson is our teacher.

SUNDAY:

9:00 a.m. - Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service
10:00 a.m. - Children's Church and Nursery
3:30 p.m. - Youth Group meets at Heath School.
All teens 7th-12th grades are invited. Please wear sneakers and bring a favorite snack.

WEDNESDAY:

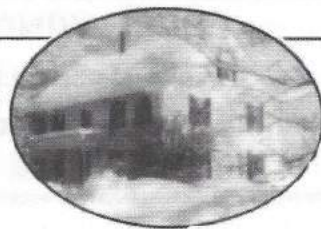
7:00 p.m. Bible Study and prayer time at the parsonage.

THURSDAY:

3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Boy's Fire Cadet Club at the Fire House.
Grades K - 8 are invited. .50 dues.

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VIEW FROM BURNT HILL

by Jack Cable

The new century has begun and everything is working as usual! The New Year's celebrations around the world showed that the world is full of people capable of happy emotions. As one country after another saw the new dawn of 2000, they had parties, fireworks, and/or individual ethnic celebrations. Here on top of Burnt Hill, we watched the fireworks display on top of Mount Greylock. We could even hear the percussions! We also saw fireworks from Mount Snow and Northampton-plus the illuminations of fireworks in Boston, Pittsfield, and Albany. And we could almost touch the stars on this beautiful night. I also noted that there was no bad weather anywhere in the world!

Beverly and I attended the New England Vegetable and Berry Conference in Sturbridge on Dec. 14-16. One of the seminars was "Promoting the Health Benefits of Blueberries." As we all know, the "Five-A-Day to Better Health" campaign promotes a goal of five servings of fruits and vegetables a day to lower the risk of developing major diseases. Studies show that the greatest antioxidant agent is blueberries- by a large margin over other fruits and vegetables. Also, findings reveal an anti-aging process plus improved eyesight are also benefits of eating blueberries. A single serving (one-cup) of blueberries is only 20 calories and fat-free - with 4 grams of fiber, 19 grams of carbohydrates and 1 gram of protein. And WILD blueberries have an increased amount of antioxidants over cultivated varieties. We liked hearing all this good news!

The mild winter (so far) has not adversely affected the berry vines although we still like the fields snow-covered. The next season of activity is Heath will be here soon-Sugarin' (and then comes burning!)

The days are getting longer!
Take heart!

RAYS OF INTEREST

by R.C. Pettengill

No wonder we have trouble understanding each other once in a while!

We must polish the Polish furniture.
He could lead if he would get the lead out.
The farm was used to produce produce.
The dump was so full that it had to refuse refuse.
The soldier decided to desert in the desert.
This was a good time to present the present.
A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
I did not object to the object.
The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
The bandage was wound around the wound.
There was a row of how to row.
They were too close to the door to close it.
Do you think a sow could be taught how to sow corn?
The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
After a number of injections my jaw got number.
Upon seeing the tear in my clothes I shed a tear.
I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

I do not understand why people look at me in a strange way though when I tell them about the black beah in Maine that got run over by a hed of foty hosses.



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Hilltown Tastes

by Terry Pettengill

Here is a delicious cake that many people have asked me to print.

PUMPKIN CAKE

3 cups flour
3 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking soda
3 tsp. cinnamon
2 cups sugar
4 eggs (beaten)
2 cups pumpkin
1 and 1/4 cup cooking oil (not olive)
1 cup walnuts (coarsely chopped)
Sift together first 5 ingredients.
Blend together eggs and sugar; then add pumpkin and oil.
Mix together with dry ingredients and add nuts.
Pour into greased, floured 13 x 9 inch pan.
Bake 50 to 60 minutes. (test with toothpick).
Cool and frost with cream cheese frosting or even chocolate.

With Valentine's Day, President's Day and St. Patrick's Day in February and March, here are a few recipes to try for each celebration.

HEART COOKIES

3/4 cup margarine, (softened)
1 package mixed fruit gelatin (or other flavors)
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 and 3/4 cups flour
1/2 tsp. baking powder
(Diabetics may use sugar-free gelatin and egg substitute equivalent)
Food coloring, (red for Valentine's and green for St. Patrick's) may be used.
In mixing bowl, cream margarine and gelatin.
Beat in egg and vanilla.
Add flour and baking powder and mix well.
Chill for 1 hour.
Roll out on lightly floured board to 1/4 inch thickness.
Cut with 1 and 1/4 inch cookie cutter (heart or shamrock).



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Place on un-greased baking sheet and bake at 400 degrees for 6 to 7 minutes until bottoms are lightly browned and cookies are set.

Cool on wire racks. Makes 6 dozen.

For President's Day we must have something with cherries. Here's an easy cake:

CHERRY-CHEESE CAKE

1 package (18 and 1/4 oz.) white cake mix
2 packages (8 oz each) cream cheese softened
4 cups confectioner's sugar
1 pint whipping cream, whipped
2 cans (21 oz each) cherry pie filling
Prepare cake mix according to package directions.
Pour into 2 greased 13 x 9 inch baking pans.
Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes or until wooden pick comes out clean. Let cool.
Beat cream cheese and sugar until fluffy; fold in whipped cream.
Spread over each cake. Top with pie filling. Chill for 4 hours or overnight.
Yields 24-30 servings: Good for parties!

The **CARAMEL CORN** recipe was printed in error last issue so here is the correct recipe.

Pop 1 cup popcorn or use large bag of microwave corn.
(Add 1/2 cup peanuts if desired.)

Combine:

1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup butter or margarine
1/4 cup corn syrup
1/2 tsp. salt

Place in glass bowl and microwave 3 to 4 minutes on high.
Stir after each minute until mixture boils, then remove.
Stir in baking soda.

Pour over corn in brown paper bag and shake.

Place bag in microwave for 1 minute, then remove and shake well.

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The Way It Is In The Country

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

by Carroll Stowe

In the early 1960's there were still some operations that were using Old Model 26 Homelite chain saw equipment. Such was the case with this town of Heath. As I was working for our town it was my job to operate the chain saw. This saw was the old type that was what is called a gear drive. It was well made, and rather dependable and it worked very well although not as fast cutting as the heavy direct drive units.

Probably in the late fall and early winter, the road crew began culling of the trees and brush on the sides of Number Nine Road towards the Vermont line. We would cut the trees and bury the brush to prepare this area for reconstruction. This would entail removing the stump and regrading the width of the road to a wider traveled area. This sort of job has always interested me. It is not done very rapidly. We would work at this project a day or two and then be called to plow snow or whatever, but were able to proceed to the intersection of Number Nine Road and Cyrus Stage Road by the time we had to do other things for town work.

This old chain saw that we used had to have its carburetor turned to be able to tip the saw on its side to fell a tree. I had never worked a saw like this one a lot so the operation of it was all new to me. It's amazing to me how simple a trick it is to turn the carburetor one way or the other. The more modern saws will operate at any position even upside down.

(continued in next column)

This old unit worked very well but should have had a new bar. It had a new chain any time it needed it but never had a new guide bar and that made the right of way clearing go much slower as the chain would tip sideways by nearly a half inch either way. When this happened, the saw tooth tipped into the cut and caught in it and had to be pulled out of the cut and restarted. This had to be done sometimes several times in one cut.

The amount we could have cut if the saw worked properly would have offset the cost. But we proceeded the best we were able. We finished the work to Cyrus Stage and set out to cut some on Dell Road.

Mr. Galipo finally decided that we had put up with the old saw enough and went to check with the selectboard to see if we would be able to have a new chain saw. There was no problem with this request so Mr. Galipo went to a chain saw shop in Montague and brought home a model .026 Stihl saw. What a treat that was. The new saw made me think of a Cadillac car when it was idling. It was such a lot easier to operate.

The first tree I set out to cut was a rather large yellow birch. It was a bell butted tree and when I cut the first log off the top with this faster cutting unit, it was cut so much quicker that the log rolled towards the power unit and bent the bar at right angles to the engine. What an embarrassment to a veteran saw operator! Ha Ha! You can never be too experienced. Well, what to do now? We got a good leverage on the bar and engine, bent that bar back to straight and went back to work, and that bent bar never caused a bit of trouble. That saw was a great piece of equipment for the town of Heath. It was stolen out of the dump body of one of the town trucks many years later. I don't think the bar was ever replaced. Like the town's old M Farmall it served the town well. Money well spent.

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LIBRARY LINES

"Books Warm the Heart"

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

The snow is dancing in wind-driven hurly-burles, and the thermometer has taken a definite turn for the worse, unless you're a polar bear. What's a person to do? Well, if I may suggest, check out a few books from the library! We are celebrating books this month at the Heath Free Public Library in a February sort of way, with hearts and stories that warm the soul. I have just jotted down a few notes of what the library has been up to recently, as well as a list of new materials from over the last several months.

Long Range Plan Goals

We continue to work on making the current library space more inviting for everyone, while trying to determine what shape and size the library will need to be to meet the needs of townspeople in future years. Specific goals we have reached are the updating of the children's picturebook section, during which we were faced with decisions about which of those should be kept, which should be updated, which should be replaced. You may notice the huge pile of books behind the circulation desk: These are books that still need to be repaired or replaced. New picturebacks are being introduced into the section as ones which are in terrible shape are being let go. It is not an easy task, but several of the library staff and friends of the library have been working

together on the collection revitalization. We identified in our Library Long Range Plan the need to increase the overall vitality of the collection. While attempting to keep up with current purchases we are focusing on one or two sections per year.

Accessions

New books include: The Attorney, Martini; Father of the Iditarod: The Joe Redington Story; Lonely Planet Unpacked: Travel Disaster Stories by Tony Wheeler; Meditation, the Complete Guide; How to Talk So Kids Will Listen, and Listen So Kids Will Talk, Faber; New City, Amidon; Harm Done, An Inspector Wexford Mystery, Rendell; Daughter of Fortune, Allende; Dune Hose Atreides, Herbert, Brian; O is For Outlaw, Grafton; Twisted Root, Perry; Testament of Yves Gundron, Barton; Papier Mache Made Easy; Jewels of the Sun, Roberts; Personal Injuries, Turow; Gaviotas, A Village to Reinvent the World, Weisman;

Llama in the Library, Hurwitz; Adventures of Tintin (3 complete stories); Tintin in America, Herge; Rachel Field's Hitty, Her First 100 Years; Ramona's World, Cleary; When She Was Good, Fox; Amanda Miranda, Peck;

Barnyard Dance, Wells; Carrot Seed; Casey at the Bat; Dog Heaven; Draw 50 Athletes; Draw 50 Horses; Itsy Bitsy Spider, Wells; Jabberwocky, Carroll; My First Truck Board Book; Noah's Ark, Wells; Runaway, Frost; Snowflake Bentley; Toot and Puddle; We Have a Baby; Littlest Matryoshka; Quiltmaker's Gift; 50 States Fandex Field Guide of the States; Hush Little Baby; Goodbye Boat; Chugga Chugga Choo Choo; and, Katie and the Mona Lisa.

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Magazines

New magazines include: Yahoo Internet Life, a gift from Jane de Leeuw; Country Living Gardener, a gift from Charles and Helen Mackie. Another new one is Angels On Earth. In addition, the following magazines are available: Air and Space; American Rifleman; Archaeology; Archaeology Odyssey; Consumer Reports; Crafts 'n Things; Cycle World; Dollhouse Magazine; Entertainment; Good Housekeeping; The Heath Herald; Ladies Home Journal; Martha Stewart's Living; Natural History; Newsweek; Parents; People; Popular Science; Rolling Stone; Sports Afield; Sports Illustrated; Voice Male; West County News.

(continued on page 16)

Frederick M. Burrington

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please call Alicia Tripp at 337-4964

(continued from page 1)

Reminded of the power of these stories (not for nothing is there always a new translation of the Odyssey) and the pleasure of being read to, I also thought of how teachers and schools sometimes feel under siege because of the new state mandated Curriculum Frameworks and the MCAS tests. In discussions about how children score on the tests, there isn't much mention of how important parents are in their child's education. They are their children's first teachers and remain a vital part of their success at every age.

I would never suggest that those beloved bedtime stories become a cramming session complete with explication and review of the text, but I do suggest that parents continue the pleasures of reading aloud to their children through their elementary school years. And if the books chosen for reading aloud because of the interest they hold for parent and child, also happen to touch on, involve, and encompass curriculum areas, who would complain. I personally have a great fondness for the myths - of every culture.

Tales of gods, goddesses, heroes and mortals give plenty of scope for discussion of hardships, tests, honor, failure, punishment, and rewards. Certainly the Greek and Roman myths inform the classical art we see in museums, and the language we use every day - psyche, narcissist, herculean. The Roman gods give their names to our months, Janus, Mars, and the Norse gods name our days Wednesday (Wodin's day) and Thursday (Thor's day). The Roman gods Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Pluto dance through our night skies. We are surrounded by the gods and goddesses, but they are invisible unless we know their stories. Without their stories we are impoverished.

My own children are grown now, but when the grandchildren arrive we do lots of reading aloud. This summer we are looking forward to the Fourth Annual Dinner and Reading Aloud when friends come to eat and then Read Aloud. We've touched on tongue twisters, Colette, E.B. White, Shel Silverstein, Shakespeare and Homer! Each person picks their own selection. Once Tricia and I did a choral reading of Paul Fleischman's poem for two voices, Book Lice:

(continued in next column)

"I was born in a fine old edition of Schiller
While I started life
in a private eye thriller
We're book lice
We're book lice . . ."

It was a very moving experience. Lots of laughing. Lots of "Listen to this — listen to this . . ."

Literature and history lend themselves easily to reading aloud, so many wonderful myths, moral fables, historical novels, and biographies. But there are also books about nature and life cycles that read aloud just as well. The creation of inventions, serious, and not-so, also make for fascinating reading. Nothing is more exciting than a Eureka moment! Obviously those afterschool conversations will reveal the frameworks as they are taking shape in your child's classroom at any given moment. So will conversations with teachers. If you wanted to look at the frameworks themselves, you can find them, in great detail, on the Web at www.doe.mass.edu/doedocs/frameworks/. Teachers - and librarians - will help you find good books for reading aloud.

Take time. Take joy. Keep reading aloud!

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MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

Born Dec. 1, 1999, a son, Dawson Jeffrey, to Carla (Rice) and David Clark of Hawley, grandson of **Judy and Roger Clark** of Heath, and George Rice and Gail Rice both of Hawley, great-grandson of Dorothy and Darwin Clark Sr. of Hawley.

.....

Charles Emerson Hamilton, 74, died Dec. 11, 1999 in Florida. He was born in Heath Jan. 19, 1925, the son of Earl and Della (Mathys) Hamilton. He married the former Helen Andrews on June 5, 1948. He was employed by the Kendall Co. for 35 years and was a member of the Heath Grange for many years. He enjoyed woodworking, camping, boating and fishing. In addition to his wife, he leaves a son Richard of Colrain; four daughters, Patty Calkins of Summerfield, FL, Sheryl Hamilton and Charlene Kimka, both of Coeur d'Alene, ID, and Faye Hamilton of Greenfield; a brother David Hamilton of Jonesport, ME, and a sister Margaret Boyd of Shelburne Falls; six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews. He lived in Heath most of his life.

Caroline (Stewart) Litchfield, 71, of Route 8A, Heath died Dec. 27, 1999, at home. Born in Jacksonville, IL April 10, 1928, she was the daughter of Leon and Esther Stewart. She was a member of the White Plains, NY Presbyterian Church where she taught nursery school for many years. She and her husband, Kendall D. Litchfield, maintained their summer home in Heath many years before moving here permanently in 1997. In addition to her husband, survivors include two sons, Budge A. of Heath and Bruce S. of Warwick, NY; a daughter Nancy Thane of Groton, NY; a brother Warren Stewart of Georgetown, TX; four grandchildren, nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held at the Heath Church with the Pastor Colin Lucid officiating. Burial was in the Heath Center Cemetery.

Herbert E. Smith, 91, of Sumner-Stetson Road, Heath, died Dec. 29, 1999, at the Anchorage Nursing Home. He was born in Heath Nov. 16, 1908, the son of Roy W. and Delia A. Smith. A lifelong resident of Heath, he attended Heath School and Amherst Agricultural School. He worked for area sawmills and the Westfield Box Co., and in the late 30's and early 40's was a rural mail carrier. His wife, the former Loretta Roper, died April 10, 1976. Survivors include two sisters: Mildred A. Burrington of Greenfield and Leola (Betty) Goodell of Colrain, several nieces and nephews. A graveside service will be held in the spring in the North Heath Cemetery with the date and time to be announced.

Barbara (Benner) Watt, 78, of Burnt Hill Road, Heath, died Jan. 4, 2000, at home. She was born in Albany, NY, Feb. 24, 1921, the daughter of Edward W. and Eleanor (Park) Benner. She graduated from Dwight School in Englewood, NJ, and Smith College in Northampton. A member of the WAVES, she worked decoding Japanese messages for the US Navy during World War II. She later worked for the Experiment in International Living in Putney, VT., leading youth group trips to Europe. She leaves three sons, Edward (Ted) of Heath; Peter of Montpelier, VT., and Andrew of Nederland, CO; and five grandchildren. A memorial service will be held in Rensselaerville, NY in July of 2000.

Rodolph A. Fournier, 95, of Avery Brook Road, Heath, died Jan. 9, 2000, at the Franklin Medical Center. He was born in Heath April 26, 1904, the son of Arthur and Edith (Tetreault) Fournier. A self-employed carpenter, he also worked at the former Kendall Co. He was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Shelburne Falls. He leaves his wife, the former Grace (Porter) Hart; two sons, Robert L. of Greenfield and Rodolph A. Jr. of Plainfield; three daughters, Luella Benson of Rowe, Doris Rand of Old Lyme, CT., and Jean Thackery of Goshen; 22 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. His first wife, the former Florence Stetson, and his second wife, the former Florence Bolton, died earlier, as did two sons, Philip L. and Edmund A. and three daughters, Evelyn Truce, Irene Clark, and Ruth M. Fournier. A memorial service was held Jan. 16, 2000 at the Smith Funeral Home with burial in the Heath Center Cemetery.

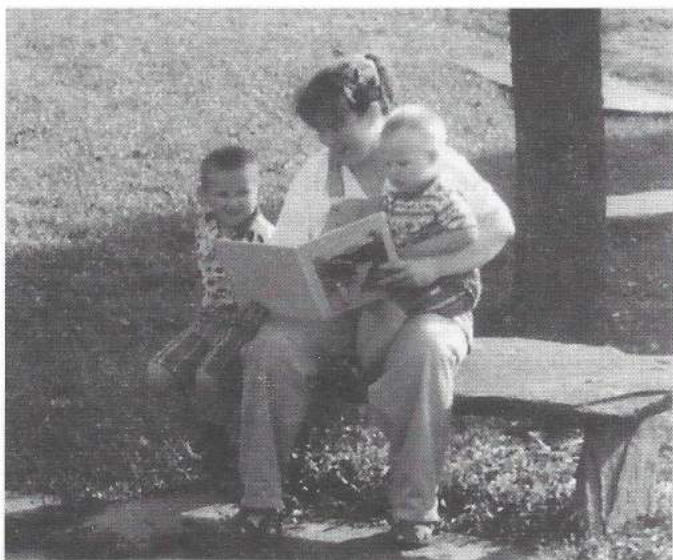
Olin E. Whipple, 83, of Schoolhouse Hill Road, Heath, died Jan. 10, 2000, at home. He was born in Pelham, Dec. 14, 1915, the son of Harry and Chloe (Esterbrook) Whipple. He owned a sawmill and later owned and operated a dynamite blasting business. Mr. Whipple lived in Charlemont before moving to Heath 29 years ago. He married the former Ruth (MacFall) Adams in 1942. He leaves a son, Arlon T. of Syracuse, NY., two daughters, Ruth Milsap of Billings, MT., and Ann Burzynski of Luray, VA., 15 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, and close friend and companion Ruth Corey of Heath. His wife died in 1992 and a son Dick died in 1997. A memorial service was held Jan. 15, 2000 in the Heath Church with Pastor Colin Lucid officiating. Burial was in the South Heath Cemetery.

(continued from page 12)

New videos include: Alice in Wonderland; Blues Clues; Blue's Safari; Cocoon; Education of Little Tree; Jack Frost; Madeline; Madeline & The Toy Factory; Saving Private Ryan; Secret of Roan Inish; Shakespeare in Love; Smoke Signals; Tarzan; Waking Ned Devine; Where The Lilies Bloom; Winnie the Pooh: Pooh Party. The Century: America's Time has been purchased for the library by the Heath Friends of the Library.

The Heath Free Public Library may be contacted via its email address, "heath@cwmar.org". If you are unable to reach us during our regular hours you may request a renewal for your library materials or even make a book request. Although you know we prefer to see everyone in person, sometimes the weather or our lives take unexpected turns and you can't get here from there! (Easily, that is.)

See you in the stacks!



Avid readers enjoy quiet moments on the Town common last summer. Photo by Robert Gruen.

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LOOKING FORWARD TO....

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Join "The Germinator" at the Heath Free Public Library on March 18 at 12:30 p.m. The mission? To plant favorite seeds as reminders of the spring days to come! Call the library at 337-4934 for more information.

Celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday on Thursday, March 2! The Heath School will be celebrating with birthday cake for the school and readings by school staff and community members.

Senior Luncheons continue on the first Thursday of every month at the Community Hall on the Town Common.

Adult Enrichment Classes continue at the Heath School. The school or Mary Vilbon may be contacted at 413-337-5307 for more information.

Story Hours at the Heath Public Library. Held every other Friday morning from 9-10 a.m, each story hour has a particular theme, craft and snack time. Little ones and their parents are invited to this. The dates are as follow: Feb. 18; March 3, March 17, March 31, and other spring dates yet to be announced.

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