



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

75¢

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August/September 2000

Heath Historical Society

MILLENNIAL CENTENNIAL A HUGE SUCCESS

By Pegge Howland

Well, we did it folks! The 100th anniversary of the founding of the Heath Historical Society, its Millennial Centennial a.k.a. Heath Old Home Day, was a huge success. Red, white, and blue bunting sign over the door of the Town Hall declared HEATH OLD HOME DAY - JULY 22, 2000 with a gorgeous logo by Eileen Tougas. A large blue and white tent appeared on the Town Common and a colorful food concession sprouted overnight on the lawn in front of the Heath Church.

In the morning, the kids played games with Lisa Muenkel on the Common or made funny hats, and Carroll Stowe told tales under the tent amid the craft displays. Many chose to view the exhibit of old books and daguerreotypes in the Library or the fine arts display of paintings, blown glass, photographs, and pottery in the Church lobby. At noon, the Shelburne Falls Military Band played on while the Heath Ladies Aid served lunch.

In the afternoon, over 80 people ogled the beautiful ladies in Joan De Gusto's 19th Century Fashion Show as they "took it off" to reveal their old-time underwear. Others were mesmerized by the beautiful organ recital by Marda Anderson in the Church. The Heath Variety Show 2000 Review "honchoed" by Mary Beth O'Dea drew shrieks of delight from over 75 viewers and the "Cakewalk" Demonstration by Joan De Gusto and Lorin Gowdy brought the house down.

The evening began with a delicious ham supper prepared by the talented Heath Community Hall Committee for over 60 hungry guests. There was a big, decorated birthday cake for dessert and we all sang Happy Birthday to the Heath Historical Society.

The Annual Meeting of the Society followed this, at which



*Town Coordinator Liz Johnson
dresses up for Old Home Day
Credit Recorder-David Schumacher*

Jack Cable was elected President, Eileen Tougas was elected Vice-President, and Michael Coe and Dorothy Gary were elected Directors. It was reported that eighty-nine people signed the register in the Old Town House and that the Society took in \$187 from the sale of its publications and the beautiful new notepaper with colored pictures by Eileen Tougas of items from the Society's collection. Pegge Howland was honored for her ten years of service as President with a standing ovation and an exquisite gift made by Bob Dane of a clear glass candelabrum.

Eric Grinnell concluded this magnificent day with a most interesting talk on the treasures he found in the old Cook Place where he lives and what they had to say about the character of the old-time Heathens.

But this would not have been possible without the dedicated help of devoted people and organizations who contributed their time, money, or talent. The Heath Historical Society wishes to thank all of them and is very grateful for their participation

and their support:

Marda Anderson, Bald Mountain Pottery, Janice Boudreau, Fred Burrington, Laurie Burrington, Jack Cable, Dolly Churchill, Grace Crowningshield, Robert Dane, Joan De Gusto, Jane deLeeuw, Bob Delisle, Dot Gary, Sandy Gilbert, Lorin Gowdy, Eric Grinnell, Heath Agricultural Society, Heath Community Hall Committee, Heath Enterprise Council, Heath Ladies Aid, Heath Police, Heath School Community Partnership, Heath Recreation Department, Heath Union Church, Heath Union Church Youth Group, Heath Selectmen, David Howland, Debra Huff, Val Kaempfer, Rollo Kinsman, Anne-Marie Lucid, Fredda Mantell, Lisa Muenkel, Mary Beth O'Dea, Shelburne Falls Military Band, Carroll Stowe, Hilma Sumner, William Thane, Alli Thane-Stetson, Paul Turnbull, Eileen Tougas, Bob & Del Viarengo and Ned Wolf.



From the Editor—

HILLTOWN RAMBLES

Hopefully, as you read this, it is bright and sunny. I felt like we were famous, as friends and family called from around the country saying they had just learned how this "tiny town" declared a state of emergency. We are still, at press time, cleaning up and restoring damage from the rainfall. Gratitude goes to our Highway Department, Emergency Management Team, Board of Selectmen, and the towns of Montague and Colrain for their help in this emergency, and others for their kindly assistance. Haven't you spent enough time walking around on earth that feels like Jell-O Pudding? Growing gardens that are under a foot of water? I wonder if Heath is ready to become the first entire town that grows only hydroponic vegetables? The brave residents of Heath, with a shrug of their shoulders, are proving that despite a cold, wet summer with virtually every known road in their town marred in some way, the show must go on!

The show I'm referring to is the fair. County fairs of my childhood consisted of the smells of sausage frying, cotton candy, sawdust underfoot, and the country fair cacophony. I'm looking forward to the fair that Robert Gear writes about in this issue as well as experiencing the reflections of Carroll Stowe. Heath has one of the most highly regarded, state of the art agricultural fairs in the state. In 1916, it started as a small, one-day, all-volunteer affair in the center of town until World War II when it moved to South Road. The present site, on the corner of Branch Hill Road and West Hosmer Road, has the somewhat difficult honor of keeping up with the times while maintaining a traditional approach.

Colgate Gilbert and June Miller report on the fascinating study of the standing stones up on Burnt Hill. A new contributor, Bernard den Ouden, takes us on a trip down Memory Lane pondering older farm machinery. We say goodbye and give our sincerest thanks to Terry and Ray Pettengill. Ray brought us Rays of Interest and Terry was our food editor and author of Hilltown Tastes, a column of delectable recipes. Gratitude and good wishes on their future endeavors. Our Food Column is now going to be "Guest Edited." If you have any recipes to share, please send them in. We've asked Pat Leuchtman to be the first "Guest Gourmet!" Our new deadline for contributions and photographs is the 10th of the month preceding publication, so the **deadline for the next issue is September 10th!**

On September 9, 2000, from 6:30 -8:30 p.m., the Heath Herald is hosting an Honorary Potluck in the Heath Community Hall in the Town Center to honor past editors and the Heath Herald's 21st Anniversary in the 21st Century. **Everyone's invited!** Please call Lea at 413-337-0217 by September 5 if you are interested in attending.

— *Lea Banks Bohrer*

HEATH HERALD

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The Heath Herald is a nonprofit newspaper staffed by volunteers and published six times a year. Donations are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated.

THE HERALD DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE IS SEPTEMBER 10, 2000. Photographs, drawings and articles are the property of the Heath Herald unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Call 337-0217 or Email Lea at saleda@crocker.com.

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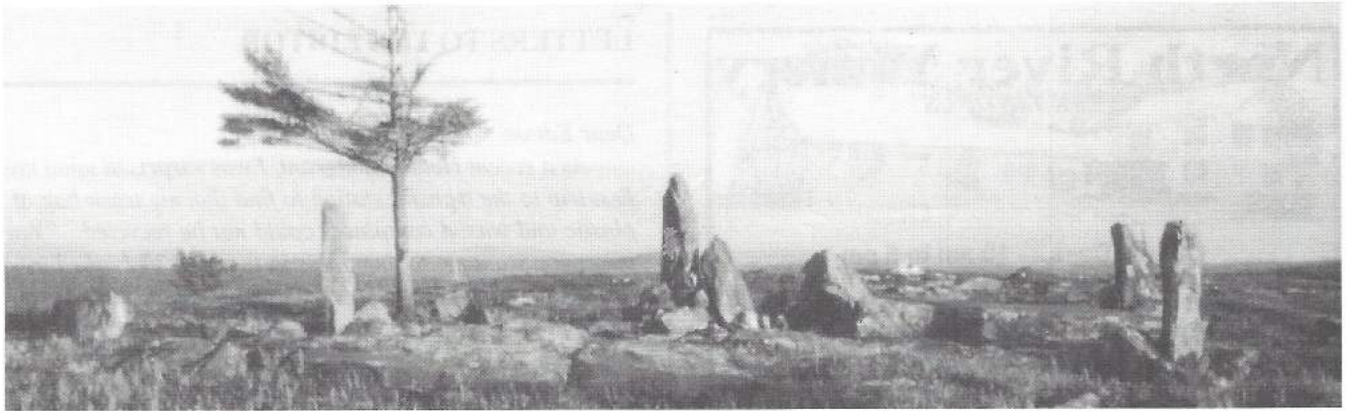
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The Standing Stones of Burnt Hill

By Colgate Gilbert and June Miller

Contributions by Norman Biggart and Peter Schmid

When we started the Burnt Hill Project, we knew we were following the well-worn path of previous researchers. We also knew that our predecessors had difficulties and had not gotten too far in trying to solve the puzzle of who built the site and why. Thus, we are using a more complete set of research strategies to learn the story of Burnt Hill.

The Project Team, led by Colgate Gilbert, has pored over hundreds of pages of records and expended hundreds of hours surveying the site and collecting data. Understanding the stones has been difficult because of the land's repeated use by different peoples. Research is indicating that the site may have been an astronomical observatory on an open hill-top. While we still do not know who set up the stones, we have learned much about the historic settlement and geographic context of the area.

Historically people have used standing stones to mark things such as graves and property boundaries, so we started off by asking, "What were the stones supposed to mark?"

They are long thin stones with a poor writing surface. They are scattered over the landscape, not closely spaced in rows, and their placement was in locations where it was not easy to stand them up. Thus, we began our project by looking at the site as though we were reconstructing a land survey. We discovered that the "builders" stood the stones up on the bedrock, mostly in holes and crevices, chinking them and then piling up more stones for support. The few stones we have found in soil appear to have been set into the bedrock under the soil. We have found twenty-one standing stones, five fallen stones, and four white quartz cairns. The standing stones are of local material standing between two to five feet high and weighing between 200 and 700 pounds each.

We tried comparing the stones' positions to both property and field boundaries and found that the standing stones

are not near any of the property boundaries described in 270 years worth of land records. Instead, the stones seem to form pie shapes or zigzag offset patterns at irregular intervals. In contrast the fields are laid in a classic rectangles modified to the natural soil patterns. None of these boundaries matched the stones' layout. So what was it that the "builders" were doing?

Hoping to find clues as to the stones' origin and age, we have listened to local stories, collecting at least seven, four of which argue that the site is of recent origin. Of these stories, the one with the most detail is reported by Donny Churchill formerly of Heath. He related that his grandfather and some hunting buddies straightened some of the stones around 1920, but they did not build the site because the stones were too heavy. Other stories suggest that the "builders" were Boy Scouts or drunken picnickers. Yet another suggests that a farmer stood the stones up as cattle scratching posts. These stories give no detail or the names of those involved, sug

(Continued on page 15)

On September 17, there will be a tour of the Burnt Hill Standing Stone Site. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at junction of Route 2 and 8A in Charlemont or at Heath Center at 10:00 a.m. Rain date, Sunday, September 24, same time and meeting locations. For more information, contact Colgate Gilbert at (603) 363-8112 or at gilbertdre@adam.cheshire.net.

On Saturday, September 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the Heath Community Hall, Colgate Gilbert of Stoneworks will give a slide presentation on current research at the Standing Stone Site. Refreshments will be served. This presentation has been made possible through the support of the Heath Local Cultural Council, the Heath Town Library, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and Stoneworks.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As a recent Heath immigrant, I was surprised upon my first trip to the transfer station to find that my trash bag of plastic and waxed containers could not be recycled. "You mean you want me to dump this in the trash?" I asked in disbelief. "That's right, lady," I was informed. Rather than put my plastic in a land fill somewhere, I brought my bag home and put it in the garage.

Our ecologically minded family of two generates a huge lawn bag of plastic every month. By comparison, our glass and cans can be contained in a small grocery bag. Heath must pay to have its trash hauled away. Does this much extra volume make sense financially or ecologically? Most other Franklin County towns recycle plastic and they do it in the same bin with the glass and cans. No extra work on the town's end, just a larger or more often dumped container.

After speaking with the Heath town coordinator, I was informed that the town gets more state money the more it recycles. However, after three months I'm still collecting plastic in my garage, hoping the Heath Selectboard will take up this issue.

If anyone else would like to see plastic recycled, please give a call to the Selectboard at 337-4934, or you can call me at 337-4037.

—Patricia Greene

News From The Academy at Charlemont

Summer Drama

This summer's drama workshop brought together more than thirty young people who worked for three weeks on an original adaptation of the fairy tale "Rumpelstiltskin," produced and directed by Gerrit White, who also wrote the music for the show. Busloads of kids from nearby camps and day care facilities came to see the performances, as did families and friends of the young thespians. Heath resident Sarah Hartshorne played Laura, a weaver, and Brandy McCloud, granddaughter of Heath residents Smead and Evelyn Hillman, played Jenny, a blacksmith.

Transforming the former Redmond residence into an arts and athletics center for The Academy has continued throughout the summer. The new facility will provide needed space for the studio arts, photography, and music programs as well as giving us locker rooms for the first time. In the months that this project has been underway we have, whenever possible, selected local contractors to do the work and local vendors to provide the materials. We feel particularly lucky that Heath residents Paul Burrington and Roger Clark were available to do most of the carpentry work. The new building - dubbed East Hall - will open this fall.

—Todd Sumner

Better Than Ever

HEATH FAIRGROUNDS

By Robert Gear

Come to the Heath Fair, August 18-20!

Lots of interesting things going on at the fairgrounds! We are rapidly completing the most adventurous project that the Agricultural Society has attempted in recent years, specifically the total transformation of the kitchen in the main fair building where we sell food during the fair.

The entire wall area is almost covered with a tough washable surface, the new floor has been installed, the new screened windows are going in place and the floor traffic configuration is being worked out for optimum work ease. A new closet and shelves will provide self-contained storage for all items needed for running the kitchen, and a new work/prep counter is in place. This will be a much more pleasant and efficient workspace for those many volunteer workers who make the fair possible by their participation in this concession area.

The new exterior siding is in place and painted, a drainage system has been built on the back wall, and all of the old junk has been removed from the back alley area behind the building. Time and resources permitting, the inner area of this building will be cleaned up with the addition of a gravel floor. Our heartfelt thanks to Dawn Peters of the Heath Board of Health for her immense help on this upgrading program.

At this point I need to stop and give highly due recognition to our chairman of the Building Committee, Howard Crowningshield. The fair depends almost entirely on dedicated volunteers to make everything happen but no one single person has done as much in the past three years as Howard, without whose carpentry expertise, planning skills, and all-out wisdom, none of our recent

projects would have materialized. Several times Howard has been helped on this and past projects by his son, Steve. Our thanks to Steve Crowningshield as well!

Work parties continue through the summer every Wednesday evening at the fairgrounds, starting at 6 p.m. Please feel welcome to come and help.

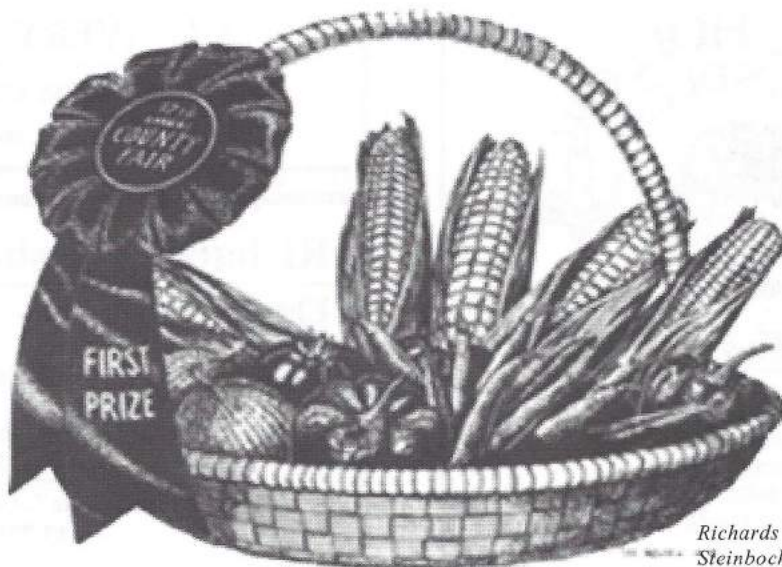
The annual June Horse Draw was a great success as it always is. Many people worked hard to make this event happen: Mary Smith, Roy Smith, Carroll Stowe, Norm Sessions, Conrad Halberg, and especially the Tanners who always do such a good job with the food concession. Thanks to all of you. The grounds were in great shape thanks to volunteer mowing, and everyone had a good time abetted by some really nice weather.

On the first weekend in August, we will be hosting the second annual Yankee Beamers BMW motorcycle rally. These guys are great people; they leave the grounds better than they find them and bring a lot of cash into the town through the Church, Fire Department, the Fair, and the local businesses they patronize. The Beamers are hoping to make this an annual event. If you run into any of them (not literally) say hello. You'll meet somebody nice!

Before the Beamers dust has cleared, we'll be getting into the Fair 2000! The music lineup is outstanding, we have

many great midway attractions, and our new rides provider promises some impressive and fun surprises.

I know I must be leaving someone out so I want to join the entire Agricultural Society Executive Board and all the members in thanking everyone who has been helping out this year and the wonderful people who will show up at fair time and do the innumerable things they do every year to make our fair really work.



Heath Planning Board

REVIEW OF WIRELESS TOWER

On February 24, 2000, the Planning Board received an application from SBA, Inc. for a special permit to construct a 190-foot wireless communication tower on the property of David and Diane Cote at 107 Branch Hill Road in Heath.

Over the following three months, the Planning Board held three public hearings whereby the applicant provided the board and the public with more detailed information. The hearings also allowed the public to voice concerns, ask questions, and render opinions. There were many concerns raised regarding the visual impact on Heath's rural character and natural landscape, the radio frequency radiation emissions, property values, and the limited wireless coverage. Others welcomed the opportunity for siting local emergency communication antennas on the tower, allowed by the applicant; and some were in favor of the availability of wire service.

The Federal Communications Act of 1996 does not allow local governments to prohibit wireless service to their population, nor can radio frequency emissions be used as an argument against a wireless tower, as long as they fall within the federal government regulations. Local governments, however, are allowed to regulate the approval process, the siting and design standards, and the appearance and maintenance of the facility. In fact, the Planning Board wrote an amendment to the Heath Protective Zoning Bylaw regulating these issues, which was passed at Annual Town Meeting on May 6.

On June 21, 2000, the Planning Board granted the special permit with the following conditions:

- The permit is granted in complete compliance with the new Section 6.3 of the Bylaw.

- The applicant is granted a special permit to construct a 130-foot tower with the option to extend it another 20 feet upon the presentation of a construction contract with a fourth Carrier. The Planning Board retains the right to have verification that the fourth carrier cannot get adequate coverage on the existing 130-foot tower.

- An amended site plan must be submitted depicting the reduced height.

- The applicant will construct monopole-type tower, painted brown to the tree line, light green above the tree line.

- The applicant will post a performance bond in the amount of \$25,000 (adjusted for inflation) to cover the cost for the removal of the facility, if need be.

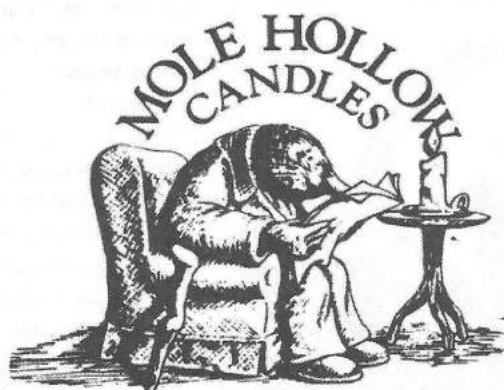
- The Planning Board accepts existing natural woodlands as adequate landscaping to screen equipment shelter.

- There will be no lighting or illumination on the tower or equipment shelter.

- The applicant agrees to permit the siting of public safety antennas on the tower.

- The applicant will be issued a building permit for all necessary construction except for the actual tower. This permit will be issued when the applicant presents a signed service contract with a licensed carrier.

—Deborah Phillips



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DICKENSON FARM CELEBRATION

The Heath Land Preservation Committee celebrated the preservation of the Dickinson farm with a party last month. About fifty people who had donated or loaned money for the preservation fund gathered for a potluck luncheon under a tent in front of Ralph and Howard's home.

Organic beef was provided by Dave Freeman and grilled by Bob Dane. The diversity of potluck dishes on the table matched the diversity of people who have donated or loaned money to help with the preservation effort. This festive celebration gave us the opportunity to thank the Dickinsons and all the people who have contributed to the effort to preserve our beautiful Heath landscape.

As part of the effort to preserve the Dickinson Farm and other significant parts of the Heath landscape, we have raised almost \$70,000 in donations, loans and pledges. This is a giant step towards our initial goal of \$100,000. Many people have come forward to help preserve the rural character of the town we love.

We would like to hear from more of you!! A donor has announced that he will match the next \$15,000 we raise, to bring us to our goal within the first year. Please consider making a gift or loan to our preservation fund. Your generosity will help us twofold.

Please help us in our efforts to preserve the rural character of Heath. Donations are tax deductible. Also consider placing a Conservation Restriction on your property or do-

nating open land to a conservation organization to ensure that what is now wild will ever be so.

For more information contact Mark Zenick at the Franklin Land Trust, 628-4696, or one of the HLPC members: Jack Cable, Bob Dane, Dave Freeman, Dick Gary, Bill Gran, Alastair Maitland, Del Viarengo.



Howard and Ralph Dickinson at potluck luncheon celebrating the presentation of their farm on South Road.

Town Nurse Notes

WALK FOR HEALTH

This is the time of year when it's easiest to exercise without driving to a gym or having to buy equipment. This exercise starts right outside your door and all it takes is a bit of willpower to stay with it. During the hot summer days, it's most comfortable to walk as early in the morning as possible. There's less traffic at that time, the day is cooler, the air is clear, the birds are singing, and you're not having to plan it into your day.

If you leave the minute you are dressed, you won't have time to talk yourself out of it. (Consistency is so important; if you can find a neighbor to walk with, you'll rely on each other to keep the ritual going.)

Walking has so many benefits both physically and mentally. It releases tension and stress decreasing your risk of illness. It gets our mind and circulation stimulated in the morning giving you energy! Walking improves digestion, helps maintain your weight, and controls your appetite. It improves muscle tone and strength, reduces stiffness, improves flex-

ibility, and makes you use your lungs more to capacity. It relieves insomnia, lowers blood pressure, increases good cholesterol, and reduces risk of diabetes. Brisk walking strengthens your heart and lungs.

Walking for 20 minutes three times a week is enough to improve fitness but if you walk every day it will become a habit. Walking at a moderate rate is safe for most people. To be safe, start slowly and gradually work up to a faster pace. As always, if you have heart trouble, high blood pressure, often feel dizzy, or have diabetes, please speak to your health care practitioner before starting a routine.

Town Nurse office hours are Tuesdays from 12-1 p.m. and Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. at the Community Hall, downstairs. Stop by to have your blood pressure or blood sugar checked. We can confidentially discuss any health issues you may be having. My phone number is 337-5716. The Community Hall number is 337-4847.

—Joanne Fortune, R.N.

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LIBRARY LINES

Many stories are shared at the library. Many delightful, some tragic, all gifts shared. Each story is important to its teller, making up the small threads of an individual's life, which in turn is woven into the grand web of the people who make our community what it is, and what it will be.

One young woman told me of her love of libraries, and her first memory of "getting hooked" on libraries and reading. In her town as she was growing up, there was a children's alcove replete with a loft decorated with a starry night sky, blazing constellations, and comfy pillows to lounge on while reading. She always made a beeline for that spot, whiling away many hours.

What makes a library important to you, inviting? Where, when, why does that spark for the love of reading and of books happen? Do you have a picture in mind of where yours began?

We hope to have kept that fire going during the summer with our "Open Books, Open Frontiers, Open Minds" summer reading program. The program in which children, young adults, and parents explored various frontiers has been great fun. We've created Native American dream catchers as we looked into our own backyards, gone celestial with "space clay," and delved into the oceanic realm, past and present. Our final program "Where Will We Go From Here" is slated for August 9 at 7pm at the Community Hall.

The library will be having a counting bee (inventory of books) August 10 at 1pm. On September 3, at 6pm, we will continue the project if necessary. Anyone who would like to help is invited.

Please stop by our library display in the blue building at the fair and visit the **Friends of the Library Book Sale and Raffle**. Library hours are Monday 4-8pm., Wednesday 12-7pm and Saturday 9-1pm Contact us at 337-4937.

—Laurie Wheeler Burrington

DEED TRANSFERS

Elizabeth W. Eldridge Estate of St. Louis, MO., Mark Thomas Eldridge, Elsom Eldridge Jr. and Stephen Eldridge, executors, to Elizabeth W. Eldridge, Living Trust of Missouri, Mark Thomas Eldridge, Elsom Eldridge Jr. and Stephen Eldridge, trustees, 84 West Hosmer Road, \$1.
Johanna E. Grady of Holyoke to James M. Grady of Holyoke, Mohawk Estates, Lot 8, \$1.

Johanna E. Grady of Holyoke to James M. Grady of Holyoke, Mohawk Estates, Lot 9, \$1.

Johanna E. Grady of Holyoke to James M. Grady of Holyoke, Mohawk Estates, Lot 10, \$1.

Frederick A. Crowningshield to Arthur W. Crowningshield and Michelle A. Crowningshield, 31 West Branch Road, \$1.

Gary E. Munter and Nancy E. Barisano-Munter of Shelburne to Steven A. Craig and Mari J. Craig of Shelburne, 92 Burrington Road, \$129,500.

Denis M. Maslak of Royal Oak, Mich., to Robin A. Maslak of Chicopee, lots 31 to 34, Mohawk Estates, \$1.

APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY AND OLD TRACTORS

By Bernard den Ouden

Machines are for work; but they also can be about friendship, history, remembrance, and resource conservation.

I like older machines because they not only evoke a past of difficult toil but also of camaraderie and human progress in freedom. Some ancient equipment and some contemporary iron liberate people from mindless drudgery.

The hydraulic loader fixed to a farm tractor made it possible to lift manure into a spreader rather than pitching it up after handling it a number of times before. It also changed the dynamics of snow removal and the loading of gravel. Some of our Heath friends loaded gravel with a shovel onto carts and small trucks. This material was then dumped on the roads. My father increased the pace by using a grain shovel.

Bale scrapers pulled by horses were used to dig cellar holes, trenches, dams, railroad beds, and to shape the terrain for many of the roads upon which we ride today. In some gravel banks they were pulled up ramps and then hand-tripped into a Model T, a Model A, a Reo, or an early General Motors gravel truck. The hydraulic lift replaced some of the use for the inclined plane and pulleys. Now hydraulic motors transfer power with hoses and pressure, rather than connections driven by shafts and knuckles.

Older machines, like long-term relationships, are not trouble free. Machines like friendships need at least occasional attention and sometimes heavy maintenance. All of my tractors have connections with people I like. Last year, I acquired a TD-9 International dozer. John Churchill owned it and did a great deal of work with it. Over the summer, this slow running, powerful, old machine was central to a land clearing and stomping project for Ann Carey. It has as much low-end torque as anything I have ever been near.

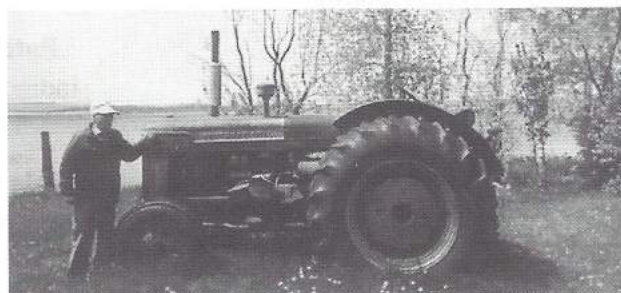
My first Rowe-Heath tractor was owned by the Stetsons, then the Laws, and last, before me, Ann Carey. It ran a sawmill in addition to cutting most of Heath's silage. It has a similar design to John's old TD-9. It starts on gas and switches to diesel when the motor has warmed up. These engines literally run tens of thousands of hours before they need overhaul.

Recently I acquired a second TD-9 from Bob White. Two TD-9's! I guess Mae West was right in that you can't get too much of a good thing.

Farmers profit from having good equipment. Many also have gone and continue to go broke because they have bought larger and fancier machines than they needed. Machines need to fit into the human and natural ecology of a region. A tractor or crawler that does minimal damage in the

woods as it helps us selectively log is a thing of beauty. Fuel is precious and the more efficient a motor is, the less emissions it gives off into the atmosphere. Tractors, like all machines, should have a gentle, not overwhelming, presence in our lives. They should be appropriate to the land we use and be good stewards of the fuel they consume.

Perhaps we should learn a lesson from some old machines. Are we really better off when braking and steering requires no effort? Is an electric switch and/or a computer between the simplest mechanical action and us as operators really an advantage? Arms and legs that feel well used after day's work may not need time spent in a gym. Effortlessness at times tethers us in dependence to systems that one can hardly understand, let alone repair. *(to be continued next issue)*



HEATH UNION CHURCH NEWS

1 Timothy 3:16 says "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." We praise God for this one, true, stronghold in the life of every Christian. In a world that is ever changing with a pace so rapid that some can not even catch their breath, this one thing remains true and steadfast: that Christ is ever present in our lives and without controversy. He is the same, yesterday, today, and always. He offers a peace, which is beyond understanding to those who will call on His name and receive Him as Savior and Lord. You are invited to worship with us.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. - Bible Study and prayer time at the parsonage.
Please visit our "Heathens Heavenly Delights" booth at the Heath Fair.
—Pastor Colin Lucid

★ **Heath Business Directory** ★

Members of the Heath Enterprise Council

Bald Mountain Pottery
625-8110

The Benson Place
Blueberries & Applesauce
337-5340

Fred Burrington
Artist
337-4302

Cable's Burnt Hill
Blueberries
337-4454

James Cerone
Builder
337-4210

Coursey Design
Interior architecture & design
337-4751

D.C. Builders
Branch Hill Road
337-4705

Robert Delisle
Electrician
337-5716

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

Earl M. Gleason
Fire Equipment
337-4948

Heath Brook Studio
Glass and Baskets
337-5736

L & S Enterprises
Leisure Furniture Maker
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 and Service
337-8704

C. Richards Steinbock
Graphic Design
337-4746

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 the Heath Enterprise Council, please call Alicia Tripp at 337-4964

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Connections

PLANTS FOR PLEASURE

By Pat Leuchtman

Originally it was their love for houseplants that inspired Carolyn and Mike Armstrong to open Plants for Pleasure in Shelburne Falls. That was in 1984. The little shop on Bridge Street was filled with houseplants and the pleasure the Armstrong's took in them - and the pleasure their customers and recipients took in their plants.

The Armstrong's oldest daughter, Amy, spent her toddlerhood in the shop but Carolyn said that when she was expecting Matthew there were too many other new things going on in their life and they decided to sell.

"Plants for Pleasure was going well, and we were very busy," Carolyn says. "Then, after two years we bought land and a tiny camp on Long Hill Road, which was going to need a lot of work. I also wanted to be home with the children so we sold the shop to Barbara Owen who ran it for about 6 years. When her husband died, she sold it to Cyndie Stetson and she also ran it for about 6 years."

Over time Plants for Pleasure grew and changed in many ways. In addition to houseplants and potted plants for the garden, Carolyn sold cut flowers, and customers began to ask for flower arrangements. She visited her mother-in-law in Florida for several weeks and took a course in flower arranging. Under Cyndie's ownership the shop moved to a larger space near the Iron Bridge and added a line of balloons and gifts. To reflect the scope of the business it was re-named West County Florists. In June, Carolyn and Mike took over the shop and named it Plants for Pleasure again, because it is the pleasure that is paramount for them.

This spring Mike left his employment with Josh Simpson for whom he had been working for the past 14 years blowing glass. He spent all of June in the shop

with Carolyn. "Mike is really the plant guy," Carolyn says. "When we lived in Florida, before coming to Heath, he worked in a nursery and loved the plants. The shop and its name were really his idea in the first place. Now he goes to the wholesaler and picks out the plants. We don't just put in orders. He has even done some of the flower arranging."

"This is a real family business. I had hoped that Amy, now 17, would be interested. She is working here for the summer and seems to be enjoying it. She is really catching on to flower arranging," states Carolyn.

Carolyn says she hopes their other two children, Matthew, 14, and Anna, 12, will also eventually come to work in the shop.

Now that they have established themselves in the shop, Carolyn says Mike will not be there as often; he will be working as a carpenter with Russ Donelson.

The shop is slowly changing once again. Carolyn says she will still sell balloons, but there will be fewer knick-knacks. "I want to sell good quality gifts that are garden and plant related. We also sell supplies like potting soil and all kinds of pots from clay to plastic. We even have a few of Mike's hand blown glass vases."

The Armstrong's house is up a long steep driveway off Long Hill Road — and she is happy to say that it held up amazingly well after the recent heavy rains. Not unexpectedly, the house is surrounded by gardens. Over the years

they have added substantially to the little cabin, cleared the land, built stone walls, and planted flowers, herb, and vegetable gardens.

"Right now I am bringing different kinds of flowers to the shop—lavender, daisies and yarrow, but it is our dream to grow and cut many of our own flowers for the shop as well as raising and selling lots of potted perennials."



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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." ©

THE OLD HEATH FAIR

By Carroll Stowe

The signpost at the edge of the Dickinson's field on South Road reads "Heath Fair 1916 - 1962."

Reading this wooden sign the casual passerby could not begin to appreciate the love, dedication, blood, sweat, and tears it took to put together the small one-day fair of years past. The nature and character of the fair years ago can only be guessed at today.

As a young boy of that era I looked with great excitement at the coming of a Wednesday in August on which the fair was held. The whole workings of that early-time fair were so simple and well orchestrated; to the outsider it would be hard to believe today.

Only the townspeople could show produce or livestock, and all teams of horses in order to participate in the horse pull had to belong to Heath people. I first saw horse pulling at this little fair. By modern standards, the loads the draft horses pulled long ago would not seem like much but these were farm teams and were not asked for all they could give very often. I'm sure more honest teams would have been hard to find. I well remember my late, dear friend Howard Thompson being there to pull one year. The late Francis Kinsman had the great strength to load the stone boat. The weights were large fieldstone. Francis would flop those rocks onto the boat. That was just amazing to watch.

There was no such thing as running water for drinking or washing dishes. The water supply sat on the back of a town truck and was meted out as needed. How a board of health would squirm if this were used today. Perhaps that water was

carried to the backside of the food booth by a brand new town truck. One of my enjoyments was to observe a new town truck. I well remember a new green Dodge truck outfitted by a lot of volunteer labor to create a piece of fire fighting equipment. I saw that truck in its first parade. How crude that truck would seem to fire truck apparatus dealers in the 2000s. Farmall cub tractors were just available in the late 1940s, and there was one at the 1947 or '48 fair. At some point there was also a new International Scout utility vehicle.

The garden produce, quilts, and other handiwork were displayed in a rather large tent, and the cattle were shown tied to bars hitched to trees in the grove below the food area. No shelter was needed as the animals were only there for the day.

What a long day people put in to get up early and do the milking and ready the stock that was to be shown and walk it from whatever part of town to the fairgrounds. I have no knowledge of anyone in town hauling cattle trucked to the early Heath Fairs.

The early Heath Fairs were held as I said, on the property of the Dickinson Family. This was a most generous consideration for a lot of the Dickinson farm operations had to be worked around the fair date. The field where cars were parked would have grown corn well but that was not possible, as the corn couldn't be cut before the fair. Heath Fair at the Dickinson's grove was a great segment of early Americana.

Without question, there was much preparation for the earlier fairs that were well attended and appreciated, but in this fast paced day and time, one could easily devote 40 hours a week to the fair effort and not see the end of it.

Please, all who take the time to read this account of early fairs come to the millennial effort and enjoy!

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Shelburne Falls

Selectboard's Report

STATE OF EMERGENCY

The Selectboard declared a State of Emergency at 8:47 a.m. on Sunday, July 16, 2000, after conferring with Mike Smith and the Emergency Management team of Bob Tanner and Richards Steinbock. An estimated nine inches of rain had fallen in Heath within a twenty-four hour period. Virtually every road in Heath was damaged and some were impassable with sections completely washed away. Some residents were stranded for a period of time while the highway department worked to restore accesses through the eroded areas. Many culverts became blocked with debris causing the water to back up and flow over and beside roads. Sinkholes appeared and portions of pavement collapsed for a day or two after the storm. Roadway access was restored and hazardous areas were marked by Wednesday, July 19, and the State of Emergency was called off.

The Highway Department, Emergency Management Team and the Selectboard have been conferring with various State and Federal agencies and elected officials to appeal for assistance with the repair work. Senator Nuciforo and Representative John Merrigan have been asked to sponsor legislation to provide financial assistance to the Town. U.S. Representative John Olver has also been contacted. We have received a response from the USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Services department to provide technical and financial help for the restoration of damage to areas adjoining streams. We hope other agencies will be responding soon.

The Selectboard convened an emergency meeting on Wednesday, July 19, to vote to authorize deficit spending and borrowing to meet expenses for the storm damage repairs. The Massachusetts Department of Revenue was contacted for permission to spend money in excess of that which was appropriated by Town Meeting to meet the unanticipated emergency.

THANK YOU MONTAGUE AND COLRAIN!

The towns of Montague and Colrain sent their road crews to Heath to help with the emergency repairs. We wish to express our profound gratitude to the towns and their Highway Departments on behalf of all the residents of Heath.

APPOINTMENTS

The Selectboard has been working on appointments for FY2001. A number of positions have been filled but some are vacant. Candidates are needed for the Council on Aging, Town Buildings and Facilities Committee, Alternate Registrars, Board of Health and Finance Committee. Please contact the Board of Selectmen or members of these boards if you are interested in serving in one of the positions.

TREASURER

Kristi Nartowicz has resigned as Treasurer. The Selectboard has accepted her resignation with regret and

wishes to express appreciation for the fine work that she has done for the town.

Linda Marcotte was appointed temporary Treasurer until the position could be filled. The Selectboard has recently contracted with Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to provide the Treasurer services to the Town. Fortunately, Linda works for the FRCOG and will still be the person who provides the services.

NEW DOG OFFICER

Speaking of pursuits, Heath has a new Dog Officer, Katie Hebert, who was elected his spring. Katie is a welcome addition to our public safety force.

COMMUNITY HALL AND SAWYER HALL

The Board has been meeting with the Town Buildings and Facilities Committee to put together a bid package for urgently needed repairs to the Town Buildings. Among the repairs under consideration are a new roof and siding repairs to the Community Hall and roofing and flashing repairs to Sawyer Hall as well as repainting the exterior.

NEWMOWER

Many of you may have noticed Deb Huff, the Town Building Manager, cruising around on a brand new John Deere riding mower. The Town Buildings and Facilities purchased the mower after Deb's mower met an untimely end in the leach field of the Community Hall. We have to come to terms with the loss but, in the mean time, the mowing of the Center and cemeteries has resumed. Thanks to the Facilities Committee!

SCHOOL BUDGET

Having only recently resolved last year's school budget financing problems, we are faced with tackling the shortfall for the FY2001 budget. The Board and Finance Committees have been in touch with officials from the State Department of Revenue and the Department of Education as well as with our elected representatives to try to arrive at a permanent fix for the problem. We have been relying on "Pothole Money" grants to cover the shortfall in past years. This year the State budget shows a reduction of the fund from \$5 million in FY2000 to \$2 million in FY2001. We may be looking at stiffer competition for the funds this year.

HEATH ONLINE

The Town has an e-mail address heath@townofheath.org and a home page www.townofheath.org. Send messages to any board or individual via the e-mail address, or visit the Heath home page. Thanks to the computer committee for getting this project up and running.

—*Heath Board of Selectmen, Thomas Lively, Chair
Brian DeVries, Charles Mackie.*

**The Selectboard meets every Tuesday night at 7:00 pm
in the basement of the Community Hall.**

The Heath Kitchen

GOOD HEATH FOOD

By Pat Leuchtman

When we returned from China 10 years ago I found that I was unable to go anywhere without a bottle of water. One year in the desert dryness of Beijing gave me a constant thirst and fear of being caught without a drink of water. Happily for me I didn't look too eccentric because that was the beginning of the bottled water fashion. However, in the discussions about the "best" water, I had everyone beat because I carried "Good Heath Water" around with me.

Since then I have been even more aware of all the Good Heath Food that we enjoy. When we first moved here we got Good Heath Milk from Fred Lively's creamy herd of cows. Then there are all those Good Heath Vegetables that we raise in our gardens, Good Heath Blueberries, and Good Heath Maple Syrup. One of the most useful staples in my kitchen is the egg, so we raise hens and collect Good Heath Eggs.

I love tending my little flock of chickens- all cheerful, domestic and productive. Their eggs are so fresh and golden that I think they make some simple dishes very special. In the summer, when there are so many wonderful fresh vegetables I love to make frittatas, an Italian version of the omelet.

The beauty of this dish is that you can really use any vegetables you have on hand. It's a great way to use up a little bit of leftover vegetables, carrots or snap beans, from last night's supper, although I personally steer clear of strong flavors like broccoli. I find the potato makes it quite substantial, but you can leave it out if you wish. Red and green or yellow sweet peppers make it beautifully colorful. You can also add sautéed summer squash or wilt some chopped chard

or beet greens and spread that over the egg mixture or add a little cut up cooked chicken or ham. This is really a dish to make to taste or convenience.

And come August, every meal is improved by finishing with Good Heath Blueberry Pie!

A BASIC FRITTATA FOR TWO

1 small onion, diced
1 cooked potato, diced
1 small tomato, seeded and chopped
1 Tbsp. parsley, chopped
Salt and pepper to taste
5 eggs, beaten
1 tsp. water
1 Tbsp. grated Romano cheese

In a small frying pan sauté onion in a little butter and olive oil. When soft add the potato and cook for a couple of minutes. Add the tomato and parsley. Season with salt and pepper.

In an omelet pan or 10-inch frying pan, melt a little more butter and oil. When hot, pour in the eggs beaten with water. Swirl the eggs around and draw down from the sides of the pan. When the eggs are beginning to set, spread the sautéed vegetables over the top. Sprinkle with grated cheese and put under the broiler for 3-4 minutes. The eggs will finish cooking and will puff up and brown. A beautiful sight. Serve with a salad and nice bread and you have a lovely lunch or simple summer supper.

HEATH EMERGENCY SERVICES NEWS

The following EMT calls were answered since the last issue:

5/16/00 - Rt. 8A North - Medical
5/16/00 - Flagg Hill Rd. - Medical
5/19/00 - Rt. 8A North - Medical
5/22/00 - East Main St. - Medical
5/25/00 - Rt. 8A North - Medical
6/13/00 - Number Nine Rd. - Medical
6/19/00 - Ledges Rd. - Bicycle Accident
6/24/00 - Rt. 8A North - Medical
7/1/00 - Apache Drive - Lawn Mower Accident
7/5/00 - Number Nine Rd. - Medical
7/7/00 - Avery Brook Rd. - Medical
7/16/00 - Assisted with Flood Damage

—By Timothy Lively

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MILESTONES



Born May 24, 2000, a daughter, **Vega Marie Rose**, to Lyra Johnson and Nelson Bouchard of Charlemont, granddaughter of Cynthia and Clark Johnson of Heath, and of Patience Lowe and Paul Bouchard of Ashfield, great-granddaughter of Jane Mutchler of Plymouth, Robert Lowe of Bourne, and Phyllis and John Bouchard of Barnstable.

Born May 29, 2000, a son **Nicholas David**, to David and Tracey Baronas of Heath, grandson of Matt and Shirley Baronas of Greenfield, Polly Miele of Chester, VT and Ken Park of Mount Dora, FL, great-grandson of Linnea Parker of West Chatham and Dot Blanchard of Chester, VT.

Born June 22, 2000, a son, **Walker Neal**, to Justina (Tanner) and William Schotte of Shelburne Falls, grandson of Donna and Robert Tanner of Heath, and Kim and William Schotte of Versailles, MO, great-grandson of Mildred Decker of Heath and Joseph and Lula Lawrence of West Hawley.

Born June 26, 2000, a son **Matthew James Timothy**, to Valerie (Jackman) and Lee Lively of Heath, grandson of David and Constance Jackman of Conway and Katheryn and Leander Lively of Colrain, great-grandson of Chester Gadomski of Conway and Lois Trow of Shelburne Falls.

Born July 6, 2000, a son, **Noah Christian**, to Brandi L (Paul) and Keith Sherman of Virginia Beach, VA, grandson of Cecelia and Leland Sherman of Heath and Jacqueline and Mayford Paul of Panama City, FL, great-grandson of Joanna Chastney of Athol, and Rocco Bertucci of Ishpeming, MI.

James Cerone, Jr. graduated May 21, 2000, from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst with a Bachelor of Engineering degree. He will be working at BETA Engineering Inc. in Norwood, after traveling cross-country for 6 1/2 weeks. He is the son of James and Dianne Cerone of Number Nine Road in Heath.



Michael Bakalar, of Ashfield and Heath, died May 26, 2000 at home. He was born in New York, NY, April 2, 1917, the son of Moses and Louisa Bakalar. He attended public schools and graduated in 1937 from Yale University with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

During World War II, he was with the Office of Strategic Services in Washington and the Office of War Information in China and Burma.

He married the former Elsa Wending in 1953 in New York City. They moved to Massachusetts in 1977. In 1979 he published the first edition of the Shelburne Falls and West County News. Later he was editor of The Good Life publication. In addition to his wife, he leaves a son, Gordon, of Camp Hill, PA, two brothers, Alan of New York City and Adolph of Florida, three granddaughters and four great-granddaughters, several nieces and nephews.

—Edith Royer



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(Continued from page 3)

gesting that they were variations of Churchill's story.

Lichen growth, unfortunately, will not help us date the original placement of the standing stones either. We quickly learned that there was considerable lichen growth on the bedrock but little was found on the standing stones. The height of the stones places them in the main heat zone of the hill's annual burn offs. However, the one standing stone in the woods beyond the burn offs has plenty of lichen.

In time, we realized that with the exception of three stones, almost all of the thirty plus stones and other markers are visible from a single area up to a quarter of a mile away.

The site could be an observatory to the horizon, but for what? We began to follow up on previous suggestions that the site might be an astronomical observatory with some of the stones forming celestial alignments. Following these leads, we began taking observations using the stones in the cluster as foresights for horizon features.

To date, we have witnessed four major solar alignments—winter solstice sunrise, spring and fall equinox sunsets, and summer solstice sunset. What the "builders" seem to have done was to use the stones to mark alignments with the sun's position on the horizon. Since most of the stones are below the horizon, the stones act as pointers up to the notches where the alignments occur.

Of the thirty plus markers, we have identified about twenty stones forming fourteen alignments to notches on the horizon. Considering the number of stones and their potential alignments, it would seem that the "builders" were constructing a calendar or almanac.

How can we date such a site? The hill had to be deforested and kept clear to make and maintain an observatory with stone pointers. You cannot see a four-foot-high stone a quarter of a mile away in the woods through a field of three-foot goldenrod! Plants leave pollen in the soil, yielding a record of the changes in vegetation and land use over time. Somewhere in the soil on the hill is evidence of that deforestation and when it took place.

The Burnt Hill Project is sponsored in part by Heath Cultural Council, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and NEARA (New England Antiquities Research Association).

To find out more about this fascinating project, read the follow-up article in the next Heath Herald.

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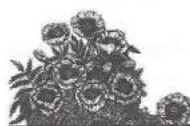
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FLOWER POWER WELCOME

The flower boxes and gardens located in the center of town have been planted for everyone to enjoy. Funds are raised each year by selling note cards, and the money from this sale is used to replace the flowers in the boxes that grace the Town Hall. The garden and flower boxes are maintained through volunteer efforts only. If you wish to pluck a few weeds or water the flowers when your schedule permits, please do so. You don't have to ask and your efforts will be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Town Common Beautification Project.



—Eileen Tougas

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