

# HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

75¢

Volume 23, Number 3

Aug./Sept. 2001

## "Meet Me At The Fair"

### History of the Heath Fair

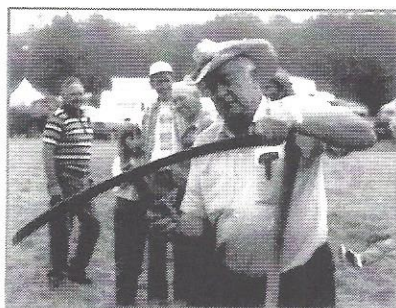
By Michael Coe (taken from the preface to *The Heath Fair Cook Book* published by the Heath Agricultural Society in 1983)

Heath "is one of the last towns in Franklin County to still have an agricultural fair," an annual American happening dating back to 1811.

"In August 1916, Flora White (a descendant of one of Heath's founders) formally united the citizens of Heath to join with the Historical Society in making the first 'Heath Gathering' a success. 'The object of this gathering is to increase community feeling and to advance community welfare.' This 'gathering' became the annual Heath Fair."

"Stimulated by largesse from the Commonwealth," the Heath Fair grew from a one-day 'Old Home Day' event in the Dickinson field on South Road to a three-day fair on the present fairgrounds, "as the price for increasing the premium money."

"Yet the Heath Fair is still small enough to be on the human side. It is above all one place where 'summer people' and year-round 'Heathans' gather together in an enterprise whose purpose is still 'to increase community feeling and to advance community welfare.'"



Carroll Stowe preparing for the scything event in 1998.



Art Schwenger enjoying the barbecue in 1997.

### Heath Fair 2001

By Carroll Stowe

Hopefully the present crew of overworked volunteers will be able to yet again pull off another spectacular fair. The devastation of the caretaker's home is still being felt as 90

percent of what the man did is now on the shoulders of fewer and fewer volunteers. Those of the older worker force could only wish to have a larger showing of help.

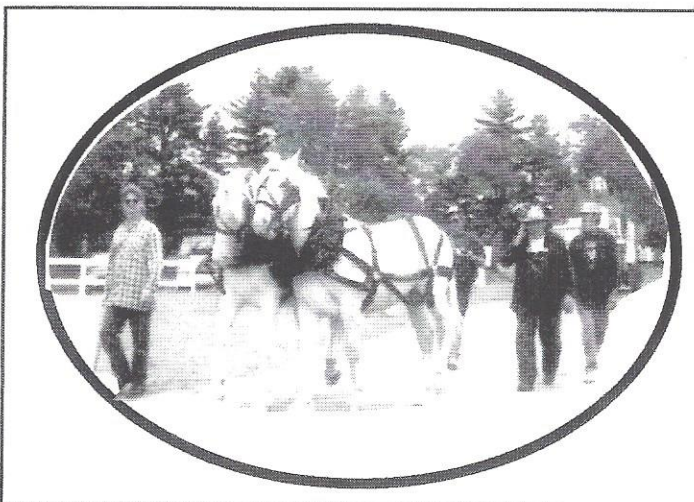
Again hopefully, the vegetable gardens can produce good displays. The horror show of foot and mouth disease in Great Britain will probably cause some loss of animal entries.

A lot of years back when we felt the food booth supplies needed to be watched, Earl Gleason and yours truly slept

on Ken Crowningshield's truck out in the parking lot. We were not troubled at all but probably didn't get the best night's sleep. Such dedication!

If those of the present fair management could look back to the simplicity of the Kinsman family's goat-powered wagon rides for ten cents, patience would be less strained. My plea for more help in an earlier Herald has come up short and help is still needed.

Come one, come all and help produce a spectacular 2001 Heath Fair!



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*From the Editor ~*

## Hilltown Rambles

"See you at the fair!" "What day are you going?" "Do you want to volunteer?" "Are you entering something?" These and other inquiries have greeted me for at least the last month.

I never knew what a community fair was until I became involved with the Heath Agricultural Fair last year. And what a community fair! It is fun and exciting, and family-oriented. From the Chicken Barbecue to the bluegrass band to the oxen pull to the efforts in the Exhibit Hall, there is truly something for everyone. Last year we had friends visit us here from the hot, grimy city of Boston and they are still waxing eloquent over our fair.

The fair still needs workers in every way, shape, and form as Carroll Stowe makes his appeal in the lead article. We have chosen a few fair recipes in our *Hilltown Tastes* column this issue. Alli Thane-Stetson was the co-editor of the 1983 Heath Fair Cook Book and she gave us the idea of using Michael Coe's introduction to their book as a very informative piece about the fair. Also, we have our own Dianne Cerone's article called *Youth Tips* concerning how youth can get involved by showing flowers in the Exhibit Hall. Look for the *Schedule of Fair Events* on page 7.

Joanne Fortune wrote a very timely article on menopause, at least it seems so to me. It's always been a subject that, until recently, wasn't discussed, wasn't researched, and very definitely wasn't understood. I'm glad to see that the subject has finally come out of the closet.

It seems as if Heath is in the ever changing process of loss and gain, new and old, change and stability with Laurie Wheeler Burrington resigning as Library Director and Charlene Churchill as the new librarian. Paul Karron has temporarily filled former Town Coordinator Liz Johnson's position. We welcome them both!

A lovely, articulate piece of writing by Alastair Maitland called *The Patriarch* is about a majestic tree that graces his front lawn. We are doing a series on great trees and if you have one on your property and you would like to write about it or would consent to be interviewed, tell us. We are sending out reporters with a 'roving eye,' so maybe your grand old tree will be next!

We will have copies of the Heath Herald available in the Exhibit Hall at the fair. If you see one of the Herald staff members or myself, please come up and talk with us.

See you at the fair!

## 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.

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## Heath Collector Donates Sanded Majolica

Margaret "Pegge" Howland of Heath has donated over 500 pieces of her collection of sanded majolica to The Jones Museum of Glass and Ceramics in Sebago, ME.

Sanded majolica is a form of Victorian pottery made in Europe and in the United States between 1850 and 1900. Many of the finest examples in her collection were crafted in England, France, Portugal, and Poland. Some of the more famous potters in England represented in the collection include Samuel Lear (Hanley 1877-1886); Thomas Forester (Longton 1883-1995); and Wardle & Co. (Hanley 1871-1910).

The most intriguing feature of sanded majolica, of course, is the "sand" finish. It isn't sand in the usual sense of beach sand, but is fine particles of clay that have been sprinkled on the surface of the object before it is fired. All nineteenth century majolica comes in a variety of rich, lustrous colors and is easily recognized by the naturalistic forms, such as flowers, animals, birds, and fruit that adorn it in raised, applied or incised designs. The addition of "sand" on some of the pieces makes for an unusual, mossy effect that is very appealing.

Pegge purchased her first piece of sanded majolica in 1970 at a Douglas Bilodeau auction in South Deerfield, MA. Since then the collection has grown at the rate of about 30 pieces a year until in 2001 it contains over 1000 pieces of sanded ceramics. In addition to sanded majolica, her collection also includes examples of sanded porcelain, sanded Satsuma, sanded Mochaware, sanded Lusterware, sanded yellowware, and Palisseyware.

Pegge Howland is a well-known antiques collector in the area and has given talks about her collection to the Pioneer Valley Antiques Dealers Association, the Shelburne Falls Historical Society, the Rowe Historical Society and the Majolica International Society, of which she has been a member since

1990. Articles about her collection have appeared in *American Country Collectibles* (Dec. 1991), *Victorian Decorating Ideas* (Sept. 1988), and in the *Heath Historical Society Newsletter* (Summer 1992). Pegge was President of the Heath Historical Society for 10 years and is presently the Curator. She is also the Curator of the Archibald MacLeish Collection at Greenfield Community College. She has served as a guide at Historic Deerfield and volunteers in the Library and the Curatorial Department.

The Jones Museum of Glass and Ceramics will have Pegge's sanded ceramics on display through November 18, 2001. She will be giving an illustrated talk on the exhibit on August 11 at the museum. For information please call 207-787-3370.

~Margaret E.C. Howland



Pegge Howland with a sample of her extensive collection.

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### Heath Emergency Services News

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

5/07/01 - Shawnee Drive - Medical  
5/10/01 - Brunelle Rd - Medical  
5/19/01 - Rt. 8A North - Medical  
5/21/01 - Town Farm Rd. - Medical  
5/26/01 - Swamp Rd. - Medical  
5/28/01 - Taylor Brook Rd - Medical

The department wishes everyone a safe and fun time at the Heath Fair

~ Timothy Lively, EMT





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### ***View from Burnt Hill***

### **Burnt Hill Happenings**

**By Jack Cable**

This is my 35th year of owning and harvesting the blueberries on Burnt Hill. With sadness, I must announce that this will be my last year here on this beautiful land. My farm is on the market, and we have tentatively purchased a home in Chester, Vermont. I plan to get back actively into the old car hobby. My antique cars have taken a "backseat" to the berry farm all these years. Now it is time to get them running again! Although I enjoyed the "hobby" when I worked at the museum at Yankee Candle, my cars were just stored. The farm always came first and used up all of my spare time — now it's time to motor!

Heath and its people have been great to me and I thank everyone who made a difference in my life. I'm not really leaving, just going "up the road a piece." Chester is a great town for Beverly as it boasts two bookstores, a quilt shop, and a cute little library. Other things that are handy are a drug store, medical center, general store, diners, and coffee shop!

Our best wishes to the Rev. Colin Lucid and family and the Rev. Neil Stetson and wife as they carry on God's work in their new environments; the Lucids in New York and Stetsons in Vermont. Congratulations, too, to Sue Silvester on being the recipient of the Shippee Outstanding Citizen Award presented to her at the Shelburne Falls Area Business Association Meeting.

### **Heath Historical Society News**

Because of extenuating circumstances, our scheduled July 14 Old Home Day was cancelled. I want to thank the Historical Society Board of Directors and all others who made such a grand effort to participate. We will have the annual meeting, dinner, and speaker, tentatively scheduled now for September 22 at the Heath Elementary School. Our guest speakers, we hope, will be Jane Wegscheider and Mary Vilbon who will report on the Heath Oral History Project that began this spring with elementary school children and numerous townspeople participating.

We will be at the Heath Fair at the Solomon Temple Barn and we will feature a crosscut saw demonstration on Saturday and scything on Sunday. Also, the Old Town House in Heath Center will be open that Saturday from 12-4 p.m.

("Heath Historical Society News" continued on page 5)





## New Position

Karen O. Moore, RN, MS, CHE, of Heath, has been named Vice President of Hospital Operations/ Chief Nursing Officer at Franklin Medical Center (FMC). In her new position, Karen will be responsible for all internal operations and will remain Chief Nursing Officer. "Karen's patient-

focused style of leadership and her extensive experience in community hospitals are tremendous assets to FMC and to me personally," comments Michael D. Skinner, president of FMC. "This is a new position for FMC and signals our commitment to build clinical programs and consider the whole patient experience in the hospital environment."

Karen states, "I am looking forward to the opportunity to have all FMC employees realize how important they are to patients, their families and others. The hospital is a vital community resource; you should feel that when you walk through the door." She can be reached in her FMC office at (413) 773-2214.

("Heath Historical Society News" continued from page 4)

The Historical Society opened the Old Town House and Center Schoolhouse to the children, teachers, and parents of the Heath Elementary School on June 5, 6, and 12, to teach them early history of the town. Our visitors enjoyed looking at historical artifacts that were on display and asked questions regarding history about which they had heard in conjunction with the Oral History project that they are doing at the school. Thanks to Pegge Howland, Dot Gary, Alli Thane-Stetson, and Beverly Cable for their hosting of the buildings. Thanks, too, to Eileen Tougas for all her assistance with Historical Society projects.

See you at the fair!

~ Jack Cable

## Farewell Celebration for the Lucids

On August 10 the Heath Union Church will give a fond farewell to Pastor Colin Lucid and his family. The community is invited to share in the celebration of the contributions that the Lucids have made in Heath during the five years that they have been with us.

The Lucids first moved to town in September 1996 from a suburban area in Florida where Colin had received his theological degree and ordination. The entire family, Colin, wife Anne-Marie, and children Andrea, Katie, Pamela, and Colin Jr. quickly became involved in both church and community activities. While Colin has been pastor during the past five years the church attendance has increased and an extensive building and renovation project has begun. Always willing to help where they can, the Lucids are not only known in our town but in many surrounding towns for their diligence and great spiritual faith.

Around August 18 the Lucids, except for married daughter Andrea, will be moving to Messena, New York, an industrial community with a population of about 15,000. Colin will become the minister of a Baptist church with a 40-member congregation. They have greatly enjoyed their time in Heath but believe it is time to return to the Baptist roots that they came from.

In farewell to the Lucids, the church is inviting all those in the community who know them to a potluck dinner to be held on August 10 at the Fairgrounds. The dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is asked to bring a main dish, a vegetable dish, or a salad to share. Place settings, drinks and dessert will be provided. Anyone with questions may contact Hilma Sumner at 337-4845.

## Books for All Ages and Interests

The Friends of the Library will hold their annual Book Sale and Raffle at the fair on Saturday, August 18, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday, August 19, from noon to 4 p.m. As usual, there will be a wide variety of books and very special raffle prizes. All proceeds will benefit the library.

## Milestones

Born May 21, 2001, a daughter, **Gwyneth Maybelle**, to Devon (Rockwell) and Matthew Clark of Heath; granddaughter of Sandy and Mitch Clark of Deerfield and Gretchen and Robert Fagge of East Dover, VT; great-granddaughter of Betty Van Zandt of East Dover, Kathy and Donald Raymond of Deerfield, and Robert Fagge I of Cabool, MO.

Born May 29, 2001, a son, **Gabriel Edward**, to Kelly Merrill and Charles O'Gorman of Heath; grandson of Tammy Schofield of Hawley, Charlie O'Gorman Sr. of Shelburne Falls, Rita Gray of Heath, and Kevin Merrill of Front Royal, VA; great-grandson of Midge and Alan Malek of Colrain and Elinor and Anthony Merrill of East Hartford, CT.

Born July 18, 2001, a daughter, **Rita Birney Delaney**, to Claire Delaney and Michael deLeeuw of Bloomfield, NJ; granddaughter of Jane deLeeuw of Heath and the late Leon deLeeuw, of Jess Delaney of Micanopy, FL, and of Joe Delaney of Montclair, NJ.

**Bruce and Lizz Davin** of Heath and Lewis and Frances Klunk of Trumbull, CT, announce the engagement of their children, **Tanja C. Davin** and **L. John Klunk**, both of Northampton. A September 15 wedding is planned.

~Edith Royer



## ***Selectboard's Report***

### **Town Business**

The Selectboard will meet every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall until the Community Hall is reopened.

#### **Annual Town Meeting**

The continuation of the Annual Town Meeting was held at the Heath Elementary School on Saturday, June 27 at 9:00 a.m. The change in venue was necessitated by the discovery of an unsafe condition in one of the Community Hall's roof trusses which forced the Town to discontinue the use of the hall until repairs are completed. The continued Annual Town Meeting voted to approve a revised proposed FY02 budget that was level funded as much as possible. The largest single item was the Mohawk School assessment that was significantly larger than last year but must be paid as submitted. The net result of the passage of the budget with the increased school assessments and the decrease in state aid will be a significantly higher tax rate. Our preliminary calculations based on last year's valuations and with no additional state aid put the rate at more than \$26.00 per thousand. No pay increases were given and all nonessential spending increases were cancelled. The tax rate increase may be moderated if we receive "pothole" money through the Department of Education's Foundation Reserve Program. The Selectboard in conjunction with the Finance Committee will be preparing a grant application for the "pothole" money in the near future.

Community support in the form of letters or phone calls to the offices of Rep. John Merrigan or Sen. Andrea Nuciforo may be helpful to the success of our effort. (See sample letter on page 7).

#### **Special Town Meeting**

A Special Town Meeting was held at the school immediately following the continued Annual Town Meeting to clean up the past year's finances. Transfers from various accounts were made to fund cost overruns or unforeseen expenses and to finalize the tax rate for FY01.

#### **Community Hall**

As mentioned previously, the Community Hall has been closed indefinitely until repairs are made to the damaged roof truss. The problem came to light as a result of the architectural study being conducted to identify the repairs and improvements needed to create a senior center in the lower floor of the building. The structural repairs are being included in the estimate for all required work. The plan is to submit the work as a Community Development Block Grant application under which all work relating to the senior center and a prorated portion of the balance of the work would be funded by the grant. A number of requests have been heard from residents that the repair work be commenced immediately to restore the building to a useable condition. These repairs would not be reimbursable as they would commence before the grant approval was given. The Board will consider this option based on the architect's estimate of the cost for the emergency repairs. We hope to have the final report and cost estimate in late July.

There has been some confusion even among the members of the Selectboard, as to the implications of creating a senior center in the Community Hall. At a meeting with Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority it was made clear that only the lower floor would be affected by this change. The upper floor would remain as it is for the uses it has historically seen. Toilets and other functions on the lower floor would be available for use by the activities held on the upper floor.

#### **Sawyer Hall**

Sawyer Hall is also the subject of the CDBG application. A scope of work and cost estimate has been prepared for the installation of an elevator and removal of all architectural barriers to people with disabilities. The project will bring the building in full compliance with the law. Currently public meetings are not permitted to take place on the second floor because it is not accessible to people with disabilities. The grant will fully fund the proposed additions and modifications. If the grant application is successful, the Town will seek to hire an architect to prepare plans and specifications for the construction work.

#### **Three-Town Landfill**

Progress has been slow on the landfill project. An engineer has been hired to do an initial site assessment and some of that work has been started. The deed has not been finalized nor has the agreement between the towns for funding the future work and maintenance of the site been approved.

#### **New Selectboard Member**

Hilma Sumner was elected to the Board to fill out the balance of the term of Chuck Mackie.

#### **Town Coordinator Vacancy**

Liz Johnson has resigned as Town Coordinator to take a similar position in her hometown of Leyden. She has served the Town ably for more than three years and will be sorely missed. Paul Karron has been hired as a temporary coordinator, and the Board will be accepting applications for the permanent position. Anyone interested should contact the Board for an application and job description.

#### **Home Improvement Loans**

Contact the Selectboard if you are interested in obtaining information about the loan program.

#### **Heath On-Line**

Take some time to visit the Town's home page [www.townofheath.org](http://www.townofheath.org). You'll find Selectboard meeting minutes, school information, and much more. The home page is a work in progress. Thanks to the computer committee for getting this project up and running. Contact the Board at [BOS@townofheath.org](mailto:BOS@townofheath.org). Send messages to the Board or an individual via the E-mail address, or visit the Heath home page.

~Heath Selectboard,  
Thomas Lively - Chair  
Brian DeVriese  
Hilma Sumner



## New Librarian

Charlene Churchill has been hired as the new Library Director, replacing Laurie Wheeler Burrington who resigned. Charlene, sister of Selectperson Hilma Sumner, grew up in Heath but has lived in Maine for the past 25 years. She has recently returned to her hometown. Charlene has a bachelor's degree in journalism and has worked as a paid and volunteer librarian.

## Temporary Coordinator Post

Paul Karron of Buckland has been hired as temporary Town Coordinator while the Selectboard advertises for a permanent replacement. Former Town Coordinator Elizabeth Johnson has resigned.

Paul is also the town's assistant librarian and dog officer.

## Sample Letter

Following up the suggestion of the Selectboard that Heath citizens contact their state representatives, (see Selectboard's Report, p. 6) we encourage our readers to do so by writing their own letter. We offer a sample letter, written by Dave Howland, which can be used as a guide.

To: Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo Jr.  
House, Room 323  
Boston, MA 02133

To: John F. Merrigan  
State House, Room 36  
Boston, MA 02133

As a citizen of the Town of Heath, I/we write to express my/our great concern about the Town's budget for FY02 and the impact it will have on my/our property taxes and local services. The Selectboard has released figures that indicate our current tax rate of \$19.65 per \$1000/valuation will increase to an estimated \$26.04 for FY02. That is a 32.5% increase, which converts to an increase of \$639 on a house assessed for \$100,000! That is a real kick in the pocketbook!

I/We have been given to understand that much of this increase is due to the Ed Reform formula not supporting individual towns in rural school districts in an equitable and dependable fashion.

I/We have supported local education and appreciate the fact that our elementary and high schools enjoy excellent reputations. However, given that town employees were not given raises and important line items like replacing a ten-year-old Department of Highway truck were cut or eliminated, suggests a serious imbalance in the funding of our local government. I/We have been hearing about Heath's long-term school cost problems with its unusually high number of students and capital expenditures and are very worried about my/our future as well as the fiscal future of the Town of Heath.

I/We will appreciate your attention to this critical situation.

Sincerely,

## Heath Fair 2001 Program August 16, 17, 18, & 19

### Thursday, August 16

Exhibits accepted between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

### Friday, August 17, 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Exhibit Hall open 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Pony Pull — 5 p.m.

Exciting Fireworks - 9:30 p.m.  
(rain date Saturday 9:30 p.m.)

Midway, Concessions, Food 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

### Saturday, August 18, 8:30 a.m. to midnight

Adult Sheep Show - 10 a.m.

Exhibit Hall Opens to Public - 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Adult Cattle Show - 11 a.m.

Horse Draw - 11:00 a.m.

Firemen's Excellent Chicken Barbecue - 12 noon

Wright Brothers Duet - 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Crosscut Saw Demonstration - 2 p.m.

Maple Ridge Bluegrass Band 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Children's Games - 3 p.m.

Lonesome Brothers Great Original Country Rock -  
8 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Square Dance in Cattle Barn - 8 p.m. - Midnight  
("Catamount Mountain Boys," Doug Wilkins calling)

Midway, Concessions, Food - 8:30 a.m. to midnight

### Sunday, August 19, 9 a.m. To 8 p.m.

Gymkhana Exhibition of Contests on Horseback - 8 a.m.

Exhibit Hall Open to Public — 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Ox Draw - 9 a.m. - Huge Ox Parade following the draw

Church Service - 9:30 a.m.

Youth Sheep Show - 10 a.m.

Poultry Judging - 11 a.m.

Youth Cattle Show - 11 a.m.

Firemen's Chicken Barbecue - 12 noon

Parade - 1 p.m.

Shelburne Falls Military Band Concert -

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Scything Demonstration - 2 p.m.

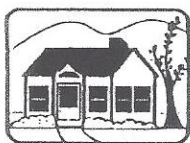
Westernaires Country Music - 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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

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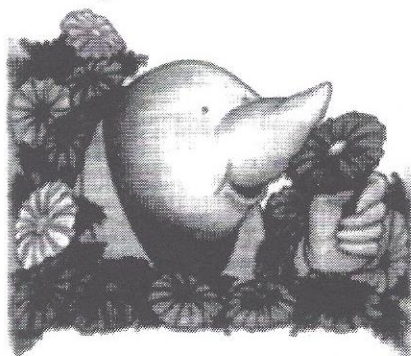
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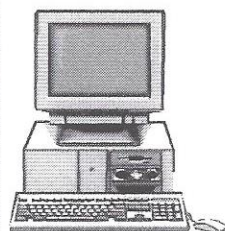


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### Richard C. Bishop

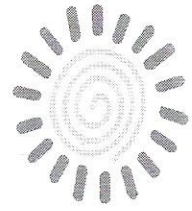
Elder Law Attorney

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





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I'm in my late forties and it's been in the back of my mind that one of these days I will go through menopause. I figured I wouldn't have the symptoms that often accompany it so I hadn't given it much thought.

When I couldn't clear a fuzzy mind and I had difficulty prioritizing my already-overbooked time, someone suggested I read *The Wisdom of Menopause* by Christiane Northrup, MD. The writer has worked with thousands of women who have gone through this process, and she points out that there is much more to midlife transformation than "raging hormones." She notes that during this time, our nervous systems are being rewired. "Our brains are changing. A woman's thoughts, her ability to focus, and the amount of fuel going to the intuitive centers in the temporal lobes of her brain, all are plugged into and affected by, the circuits being rewired." I like the idea of a stronger intuition!

Chapter one is called, "Menopause Puts Your Life Under a Microscope." Dr. Northrup explains that perimenopause can last from as early as age 35 to as late as 55. During this time, our focus on caring for others gives way to the desire and need to look inward, nurture ourselves, and understand the connection between our emotional health and our physical well-being. A clarity of vision and increasing intolerance for injustice and inequity accompany these changes. Throughout the book she points out that our hormones are a gift that give us the opportunity to see what we need to change in our lives in order to live honestly and healthfully for the second half of our lives. If we cannot face the changes we need to make, our bodies may find a way to point it out that is impossible to ignore.

The writer discusses the physical changes, why they happen, and foods and supplements to support the change. She includes essential information on hormone replacements and how to decide whether or not to take them. There is a chapter on nurturing your brain by enhancing midlife sleep, and she discusses depression, memory loss and how to maximize midlife wisdom. Osteoporosis is included in her chapter on how to build healthy bones, and there is also a chapter on heart disease called "How to Listen to and Love Your Midlife Heart."

Northrup says, with great assurance, that, "menopause is an exciting developmental stage, one that, when participated in consciously, holds enormous promise for transforming and healing our bodies, minds, and spirits at the deepest levels."

The library has ordered this valuable book if you would like to borrow it.

My office hours are Tuesdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m. in the blue building at the fairgrounds. My phone number is 337-5716.

~Joanne Fortune, RN

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## **Hearing To Focus On Community Hall**

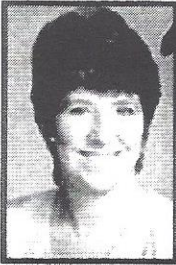
A public hearing will be held August 14 at the Heath Elementary School at 7 p.m. to discuss the future of the Community Hall.

The building has been closed since structural damage was found in the roof, and costs to make the repairs are still being worked out. The hearing is needed if the town decides to make a Community Development Block Grant application by an August deadline.

The Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority has been working with the town to make renovations to the hall including a new kitchen, nurse's office, handicapped-accessibility, and other improvements. The grant requires that the hall then be used as a senior center for several years.

The cost for the immediate repairs will be brought to town residents at the meeting, and to voters at a Special Town Meeting scheduled for August 28 at 7 p.m. at the school.





**Wanda**  
Mooney CRS, GRI

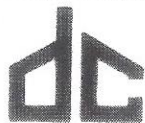


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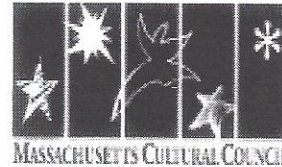
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*Heath provides us with many blessings not the least of which are our varied and beautiful trees. We are beginning a series on Heath Trees and look to our readers to tell us of their favorites.*

## The Patriarch

By Alastair Maitland

The house is held in the embrace of the old stage road as it moves in a sweeping curve northwards. Between the house and the road stands an ancient sentinel, the majestic sugar maple of which Clyde Churchill once said, "Indians slept in the shade of that tree."

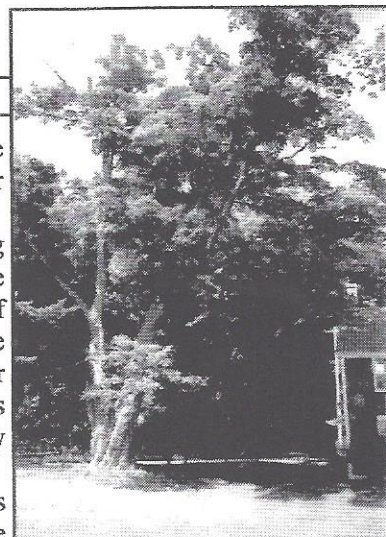
The house itself was built in the early years of the 19th century, its first occupant being Deacon Moses Smith, who took up residence around 1808. Did the maple predate the house, as Clyde Churchill believed? Or was the tree planted there, at the time of construction, and as part of the original overall decor, by David Snow, who built the house and who, later on, was to build the Union Church in Heath and the Old Town House or "Historical Hall?" The chances are that Clyde's estimate was correct, given the tree's impressive girth - a diameter at breast height of 5 feet 6 inches - and the generally accepted belief that sugar maples may live for up to 500 years.

I have known, and loved, and cared for the maple for the past thirty years. It has required surgery from time to time. Protective bracing has been installed. And there have been timely applications of fertilizer. The result would have pleased the 19th century Swiss botanist, Augustin Pyrame de Candolle, who believed that trees die from injury or disease and not from old age.

However, time marches on. And, while the great tree will long survive me and will continue to stand guard as it has from the time of Moses Smith, it has seemed to me that a way should be found to ensure that its image - its spirit - will not be lost with the passage of time. The way I chose was to help it to have authentic and identifiable heirs and successors.

It was easy enough to collect a sufficient quantity of the samaras, or winged seeds, when in due course they spun to earth through the autumn air. The seeds were then stored in the freezer until the following spring when a dozen of them were planted beside the barn. They have all survived - there may be something special in their genes - and the majority have by now reached a height of 11 feet. This coming autumn two or three of the best specimens will be dug up and replanted, at sites that have been selected to give them the space and visibility that we wish them to have.

All of us perhaps have a little something of Joyce Kilmer in us. A poem lovely as a tree? Can a fair comparison be made between a sonnet by Petrarch or Shakespeare or Keats and a 200-year-old sugar maple of more than ample girth? Perhaps not. But who would deny that only God can make a tree?



## Youth Flower Entry Tips

By Dianne Cerone



The Fair is just around the corner and it's time to get serious about making a submission to the Fair. There are enough categories for everyone to get involved in a real personal way including arts and crafts, collections, and homegrown plants and flowers.

Many young people grow flowers. Let's talk about how you would select flowers for an entry. First decide on a variety, and then take a careful look at each flower. Try to select flowers that are as perfect as can be. They should be uniform in size and should be "fresh," or newly opened blooms. They should have no holes, rips, or stray marks. Take a ruler and measure your blossoms to make sure that they fall within the specified size category. Pay close attention to the small size category; make sure the "less-than-one-inch" blossoms are less than one-inch.

In the plant section, there are terrariums and houseplants of all types. First make sure the plant is healthy looking with no bugs or diseases. Groom your entry. A well-groomed entry will make a better impression. Clean up and remove dead or dying foliage. Clean containers dress up the overall appearance of the entries, making a more positive visual statement than broken, dirty containers.

A third area youth can enter is the arrangement or design section. Read carefully the description of each design category. Choose a container that will complement your design, not overpower it. Choose colors that complement, not compete with each other for attention. Try different textures, shapes, and sizes. This is an area that you can practice at home before entering a design at the Fair. Practicing ahead of time offers an opportunity for others to make helpful comments.

Make the best possible entry you can, and remember, there is money to be made while you show off your efforts. The judge will write comments on all your entries, so check them against your own thoughts and ideas. Here's hoping that more young people enter the plant and flower section at this year's Fair.



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## From Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

### Senate FY02 Budget

This is going to be a tradition: the annual "good news for small towns" report from the Senate version of the state budget for the upcoming fiscal year. This year additional good news comes from FY01 capital supplemental budget adopted by the Senate on the same day we finished hammering out FY02 budget recommendation.

### Chapter 90

The Senate reaffirmed its commitment to full funding of the Chapter 90 account by appropriating as additional \$50 million for local road maintenance and construction for FY01. As you local highway superintendent will tell you, there has been an ongoing disagreement involving the Governor, the legislature and the Massachusetts Municipal Association regarding the adequacy of the state funding for this program.

### STRAP

The Small Town Roadway Assistance Program (STRAP) was due to expire the end of June. This program, which provides grants of up to \$500,000 for projects in small towns, has been very popular in my district. At least six towns including Charlemont have been waiting to hear whether they will receive this funding. Three or four years is not an unusual wait. Under the circumstances, I consider my successful STRAP amendment to be a big victory in the FY02 budget debate. It will extend the program for two years and will require MassHighway to act on applications with 45 days of receipt.

### Education

The FY02 Senate budget included a \$315 million increase over FY01 in funding for public education programs and projects. The bulk of the increased funding will go toward reduced class sizes and MCAS tutoring. We also fully funded the regional school transportation line item, increasing by over \$2.4 million last year's figure.

### Agricultural Fairs

Last year \$200,000 was earmarked in the budget for agricultural fair prizes. By helping to cover the costs of premiums paid to exhibitors, this funding allowed these economic and cultural events to survive. I am happy to report that the Senate provided the \$200K for prizes and added \$150,000 to help rehabilitate fairgrounds facilities. This funding has special meaning for Western Massachusetts as these fairs are an annual milestone for youngsters in 4H groups, and are a cherished tradition for residents of all ages.

## HEATH DEED TRANSFERS

Richard G. Ablicki of South Hadley to Frances M. Ablicki of Three Rivers, 22 Cascade Drive, less than \$100.

Edna Brouthers of Monson to Donald B. Schnelle, 47 Flagg Hill Road. No consideration.

Catherine Heyl Estate, John J. Nicholson, executor to Catherine Heyl Indenture of Trust, Dorothy Heyl and Margery Heyl trustees, Colrain Road, 32 acres. No consideration.

Frances W. Charles of Gilbertville and Scott G Bryant of Sunderland to Frances W. Charles of Gilbertville, Flagg Hill Road, Lots 1 and 2. No consideration.

Jeanne Charles of Heath and Scott Bryant of Sunderland to Jeanne F. Charles, Flagg Hill Road. No consideration.

Stephen W. Charlton Jr. to Rural Development Inc., Number Nine Road, Lot 3, 8.68 acres. No consideration.

Frederick Golba of Chicopee and Sheila Ann Ahearn of Waterloo, IA, to James M. Myers and Joanne G. Katz of Florence, 144 Taylor Brook Road, \$32,200.

Clayton Herbert and Katherine Herbert of Buckland to Corinne G. Bergstrom and Sander H. Bergstrom, 27 Shawnee Drive, \$98,500.

Robin H. (Law) Jenkins to Ruth E. Johnson Irrevocable Real Estate Trust, Ruth E. Johnson, trustee, Town Farm Road, \$1.

Gerard A. Ledoux of Agawam to Gloria Leterer and Anthony J. Wolf of Chicopee, 10 Waterfall Drive, \$12,000.

Mohawk Estates Realty Trust of Chicopee, Alphonse T. Maslak and Ruth M. Maslak, trustees, to Alphonse T. Maslak and Ruth M. Maslak, 12 Deer Run Path, \$1.

Diane (Basile) Myers of Palm Beach Gardens, FL, to Thomas V. Flynn of Lakeville, Colrain Brook Road, Lots 34 and 35. No consideration.

Meredith Nicholson of Enfield, CT, to John C. Graves Jr. and Angela K. Graves of Conway, 208 Taylor Brook Road, \$100,000.

Lynn Perry Remick of West Yarmouth to Nancy Barisano Munter of Shelburne and Gary E. Munter, Mohawk Estates, Lots 45 and 46, \$8,000.

Donald Robert and Jeanne Robert to Daniel A. Roy and Maria M. Roy, one-half interest, and Denis L. Roy, one-half interest, Mohawk Estates, Lot 10, \$6,000.

Rural Development Inc. of Turners Falls to Stephen W. Charlton Jr. and Alicia M. Charlton, Number Nine Road, Lot 3. No consideration.

Derrick R. Schull and Andrea L. Schull of Killingsworth, CT, to Matthew M. Clark and Devon Clark, 62 Jacksonville Stage, \$15,000.

William L. Thane and Arlene M. Thane to Arlene M. Thane, 64 Brunelle Road, \$1.

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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."*

### Old Hay Balers

"How things change with time"

By Carroll Stowe

Carroll Stowe's Annual Wagon Train Event this year will be September 28, 29, and 30. It will start at the Heath Fairgrounds. For more information, call Carroll Stowe at (413) 337-4498.

In the mid 70s we had somewhat equipped our operation with some machinery to do haying jobs. The first thought was that with this equipment we could provide hay for my wife's horses. This evolved to create rather a busy schedule of haying. Old iron gotten out of the brush and put back to work again was some challenge, to say the least. Time or the shortage of it changes what one is able to do.

This old 45 International baler that I found in Cummington had not seen service for some time when I acquired it and needed the expertise of a true baler technician. When the trouble was determined, parts, not easily found, had to be replaced. We were able to get this unit to function after a bit but all was not right. We limped through our first season with varying success but not 100 percent.

At the start of our second season I engaged the services of a baler genius and things were much better after that. This old baler's timing was off. I had operated a new baler of this model for my folks and didn't ever experience this problem, but as I became more familiar with the workings, there were problems I was able to correct. The more I worked this old machine the better we got along. From time to time I would have to hurl some verbal epithets at it, which amused some people who heard them.

All the custom baling we accomplished amounted to over 4000 bales some seasons. Things change and the hay situations are different each year and eventually the need for this old baler became less and less. We had taken care of the baling at Burrington Meadows for more than 20 years and didn't get a lot of hay wet.

As I was needed two years ago to drive a dump truck for the entire summer, I was able to turn the baling over to another operation so I had no need for the old 45 baling machine. The fall of 2000 I decided to try to give our old baler away and found a fellow who agreed to take my offer but then I learned that a young fellow here in Heath would have liked this old iron. I called to try to change my first offer and was told the baler had been sold the day before. So what to do? This dealer fellow told me if I could find a workable unit for the one who'd agreed to buy my rig, to go ahead. My neighbor across the road had two balers that I'd found for him. He was agreeable to sell. A deal was made with the fellow who bought my rig, and he took the neighbor's balers so the one I'd given away will stay in Heath. I agreed to help both new baler owners learn the tricks of a model 45 International hay baler so hopefully all will be satisfactory for all concerned.

That old unit of ours was nearly 30 years old when we got it and it served us and those it worked for very well and provided a lot of hay for many animals.

Statements had been made that a 45 International baler wasn't worth bringing home when brand new. If all those early balers could have had the expertise of the man I engaged to correct our baler's timing problem, all would have been happy with that brand of baler. To be sure there were times when I questioned the wisdom of trying to reclaim the one I've written about. Just like with vintage McCullough chain saws, some folks have more patience than others.

With good condition hay, the best quality twine, and a well-adjusted baler unit powered with a nice running H Farmall tractor, watching the bales hit the ground is some kind of pleasure. Change any of these conditions and the pleasure experience drops rapidly. I've probably seen the last of long afternoons of baling hay but I enjoyed the operation very much.

If I am able to advise anyone with the described iron, I would be only too happy to help. Good baling.

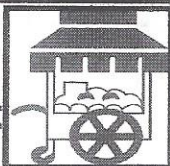
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**Heath Fair Cooking**



Recipes from *The Heath Fair Cook Book* which was published by the Heath Agricultural Society in 1983.

Many of the recipes contained therein won prizes at the Fair over the years.

**Nisu - Finnish Coffee Bread**  
from Alli Thane

- 1/2 cup scalded milk
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 beaten eggs
- 3 1/4 cup sifted flour
- 4 crushed cardamom seeds
- 1 yeast cake softened in 1/2 cup water

Combine butter, sugar, salt, and milk and let cool to lukewarm. Add yeast, eggs, flour, and cardamom. Mix and let rise until double, about one hour. Punch down and let rise 30 minutes. Divide in half and knead until not sticky. Divide each portion into three strips and braid. Let rise until double. Bake at 375 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Brush with maple syrup and sprinkle with sugar or decorate with icing and nuts.

**Lickin Good Pickles**  
from Mildred Burrington

- 20 ripe tomatoes
- 12 onions
- 3 cups vinegar
- 1/2 cup salt
- 12 apples
- 4 cups sugar
- 2 tablespoons pickling spice tied in cheesecloth (no hot peppers!)

Peel tomatoes and onions. Slice all thin and cover with scant 1/2 cup salt. Let stand overnight. In the morning, drain well. Peel apples and chop. Also chop tomatoes and onions. Put in kettle. Add sugar, spice, and vinegar. Cook until soft, about one hour. Can and process jars in a boiling water bath. Very good with pot roast or meat.

**Cooked-up excuses**  
**usually sound half-baked.**

**Agatha's Blueberry Buckle**  
from Edith Gleason

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups blueberries

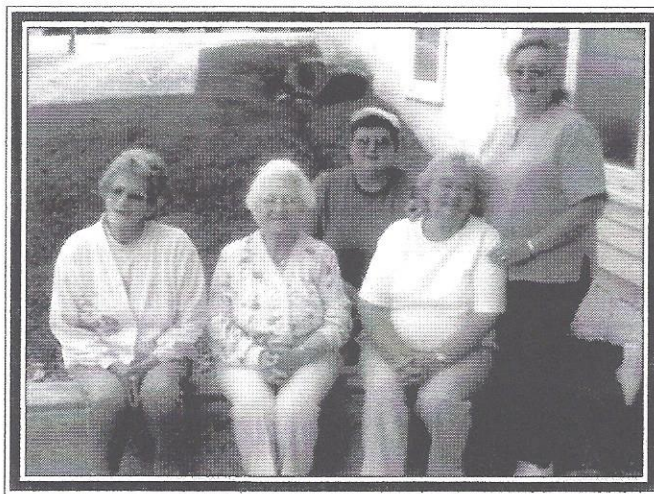
Mix sugar, butter, and egg. Stir in milk, flour, baking powder, and salt. Spread batter into well greased 8x8 inch pan. Top with your favorite topping or use the topping recipe below.

- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1/3 cup melted butter

Bake at 375 degrees for 30 - 40 minutes.

**Helpful Hint**

Candles will last a lot longer if placed in the freezer for at least 3 hours prior to burning.



The Heath Luncheon Club held a volunteer recognition in June. The Volunteers honored were (left to right): Val Kaempfer, Dorothy Sessions, Debbie Huff, Alli Thane Stetson, Eileen Tougas, and Marilyn Klockers (not pictured). The Luncheon Club will not meet until the Community Hall has been repaired.

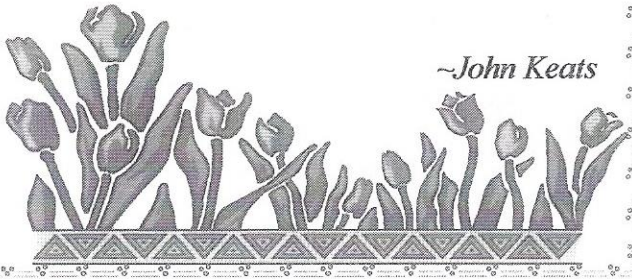


## Poetry Corner

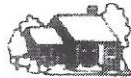
From "Endymion"

A thing of beauty is a joy forever:  
Its loveliness increases; it will never  
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep  
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep  
Full of sweet dreams, and health,  
and quiet breathing.

~John Keats



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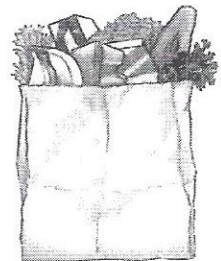


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