



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

\$1.00

Volume 25, Number 3

August/ September 2003

Thursday, August 14

Exhibits accepted between 4 and 8 p.m.

Friday, August 15, 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.

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

Pony Pull - 5 p.m.

The Neurotransmitters with Mike Chrisman
7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Awesome Fireworks (raindate Saturday)

Midway, Rides, Concessions 5:00 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Saturday, August 16, 8:30 a.m. - midnight

Rabbit Show - 9 a.m.

Adult Sheep Show - 10 a.m.

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

Adult Cattle Show - 11 a.m.

Horse Draw - 11 a.m.

Firemen's Excellent Chicken Barbecue - 12 noon

Scything Demonstration

(Soloman Temple Barn) - 2 p.m.

Double Vision (comedy, mime, fun)

2 shows in the afternoon

Conway Tool & Forge Blacksmith demonstration,

John Passiglia - all day

Childrens 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
(Country Friendship with Doug Wilkins calling)

Sunday, August 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Exhibit Hall Open to Public 10 a.m. 4:00 p.m.

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

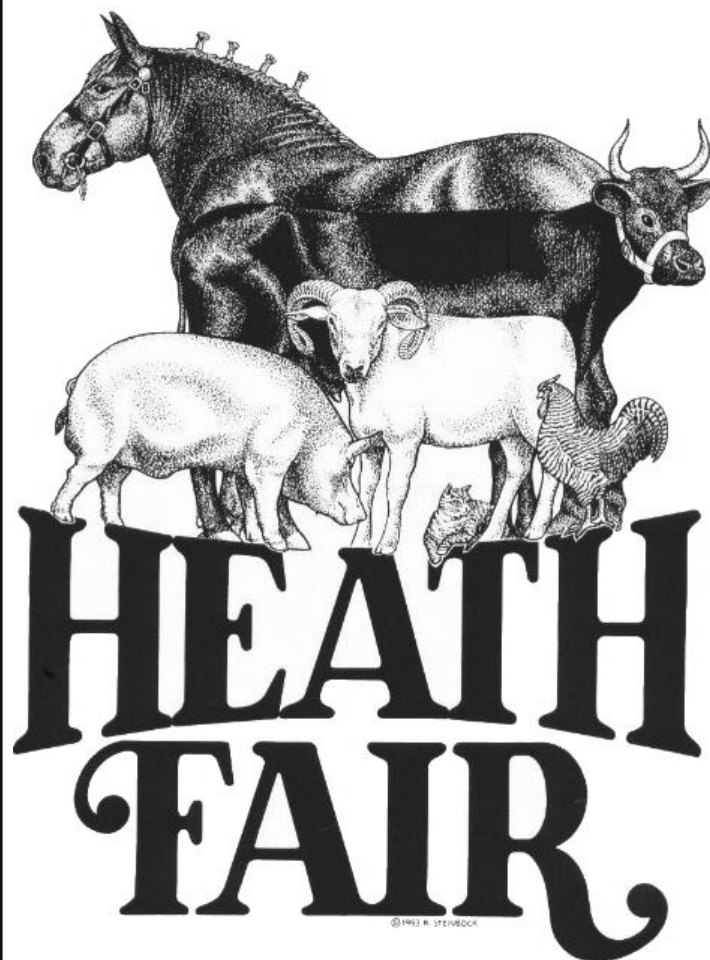
Balloon Buffoon (Charlie Sable - noon - 5:00 p.m.)

Parade - 1 p.m. (Theme: Liberty)

Conway Tool & Forge Blacksmith demonstration,
John Passiglia - all day

Midway Concessions, Rides - 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rides provided by D & L Amusements
Entertainment all under tent cover -
Rain or Shine



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Memories of Heath Fairs of Her Childhood Summers in Heath

By Elizabeth Sifton

High spirits marked the most exciting of Heath's festivities, the annual fair and its parade, held in August, across from Dana Malone's place, next to an oak grove above the Dickinson's farm, half under the shade of the dark, high trees, half in an open, mowed field.

Yeasty, sugary fragrances suffused the milk-white air in the canvas tents, where tables arranged in a spacious oval, displayed constellations of cakes, bread, and cookies; others glowed with a rich tapestry of jellies and jams, pickles and relishes, flawless vegetables, perfect fruit. Outside, under the oaks, calves and piglets, chickens and ducks, (my brother's and mine among them) fussed and preened in their pens, awaiting blue, red, or no ribbons.

All morning Susan Kirk and I would mill around admiring the displays, eating snacks, - no fast food here! no imported generic carnival junk from non-Heath hands! - and drinking root beer and celery tonic in bottles pulled from the sloshy metallic depths of big Coca-Cola ice boxes. Our mothers schmoozed with Mrs. Landstrom and Mrs. Stetson and tried to decide which of the beautiful rugs to buy - braided or rag? or the padded dress hangers covered in gingham? or cross-stitched table linens? quilts?

Soon the ox-draws began...

As the fair wound down, the parade started up, and the summer and winter people collaborated in truly deranged nonsense. On the farmer's familiar flatbed trucks or horse-drawn haycarts, marvelous floats were mounted depicting all kinds of wondrous scenes. Bishop Dun was a big hit one summer as the Wild Man of Borneo, hairily nude from the waist up. Waving his powerfully muscled arms about, munching leaves, and bellowing nonsense syllables in a lusty, booming voice that usually carried across vast cathedral naves; one of the Gleason boys was his "keeper."

In the evening we all went to, or acted in, a play at the Town Hall. I have a picture of my father Reinhold Niebuhr in a star role as a circus barker, with a shiny top hat and striped red-white pants. Skinny young Ken Stetson whose vegetables always won blue ribbons and whose farm was famous as a statewide gold-star winner, played the Fat Lady, flirting goofily with the barker..

Another summer we did *Our Town* - Mary Kirk directed, Bill Wolf was the stage manager, Susan Kirk had a nifty role as the hero's sister, and I had a little part, too. Mrs. Burrington played the hero's mother. Everyone thought the production was ace.

(Elizabeth Sifton from an essay, "The Serenity Prayer," in the *Yale Review* (January 1998, VolL 86, #1)

FRESH WINDS FARM

Paul & Marcella Lively & Sons

Excavating - Loam - Sand Stone 337-4331

****SCREENED LOAM A SPECIALTY****

A Living Inheritance

A lot of stories start one place, meander around a bit, and end up somewhere else altogether. This is one of those. On one of our fine Heath real-summer-at-last days, I ran into Jane deLeeuw weeding the beds in front of the town hall. I stopped to tell her how much I'd enjoyed the last issue of this fine newspaper, and she was obviously pleased - as you'd be, too, if you put all that work into helping to create issue after issue. She noticed the trio of lovely peonies that I had balanced precariously in a paper cup (I've since learned that a beer bottle does the job much better), on their way to Margo "Thank you for shopping at your local Post Office" Newton.

Anyhow, that led me to telling Jane that those very peonies were from my inheritance plant, splendid old festiva maxima. Its blowsy blossoms are big as saucers, extravagant in their many pure white petals with just a tiny streak of magenta here and there to add some zip, and a rich, delicious perfume that bowls you over.

I inherited this superb plant from my grandmother and it means more than any of the other lovely things that have come down to me from her. The joke I inherited from her is second, but it's a bit too spicy to share here (do ask me, though, and I'll tell it to you!). I don't always think of Grandma when I use her dessert plates, but she comes powerfully to mind each time I enjoy her peony—great memories of a great lady that are renewed each June. I know this would make her happy!

Over the last forty years, the plant has gotten dug and divided umpteen times, moved hither and yon, and is now enjoyed by our 86-year-old mother, my three sisters and their daughters, and me. Every time it blooms, memories of my Grandma blossom, too—her early years in Ireland, the travails and victories of her life being with her at the farm on the shore of Lake Huron for all our perfect, timeless childhood summers.

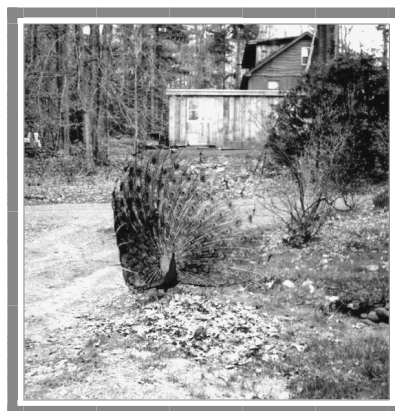
Elizabeth Winifred Morgan was orphaned as a young child, after her mother died when she was born and then her fisherman father drowned at sea. She was raised by her grandmother, in a stone and thatch cottage near the shore of Ireland's Carlingford Bay. One of her girlhood jobs was to take the cooking pots down to the beach each Saturday and scrub the peat smoke off them with sand. She came here when she was 15, making the steamship crossing alone and then lying about her age to get through immigration at Ellis Island. In Detroit, she studied to be a nurse and was justifiably proud of her RN. Judging from old letters to her (which we peeked at as kids), she had many beaux and was much sought after. I think she was what we'd call a hot ticket these days, and I'm sure she had loads of fun at most every turn. Mom tells me that Grandma had gorgeous thick, dark red hair, the color of aged cherry wood, just like my sister Susie's.

She married, had three children, and was widowed at a young age, back when people often died after contracting pneumonia. Happily, Mike Mausolf fell in love with her and

the children, and, many years later, he became the most perfect grandfather we could imagine. Perhaps I'll write about him in another story. After Mike retired from being a freighter captain on the Great Lakes, they spent their days on the farm in Harbor Beach, Michigan. Lucky us to have such wonderful grandparents, in such a beautiful place, with enough adventure and spirit in their lives to create stories and memories like this.

So, get on with it! Select that favorite perennial of yours, or save those annual seeds, and pass them along as a living inheritance. Perhaps some day, your grandchildren and great-grandchildren will be calling up memories and telling stories like this about you. Now wouldn't that be fun!

~ Kathy Stein



A Beautiful Sight in Heath

Early in May of last year, a pair of peacocks were sighted in Heath on Dell Road. Then they were seen on Taylor

Brook Road. Shortly after they were up on the hill in Mohawk Estates. The female was around for a short time then disappeared. The male has been here ever since. During the extreme winter we had, he would come up on our porch and huddle near the door. I am certain he was taking advantage of our heat lost through the door. We had a pan of feed for him on the porch. Every day he would show up like clockwork. When we were away our friend Eileen Tougas would come up to feed him even though the weather and roads were sometimes bad.

He seems to enjoy being up on roof tops, patio railings, and especially watching people work outside. This past spring has been rough on him as he kept calling for a mate, which went unanswered. Our dog and cat have become accustomed to him being here. They now can walk right past him and he pays no attention. I guess he feels he is another member of the family. We have tried to take a picture of him with his tall feathers fanned out, but every time he sees you with a camera, he stamps his feet and puts his back to you. People who pass by will come to a halt when they see him, whether he is on display or not. He certainly brought a joy to us during the long, long winter and continues to do so.

~ Bud and Val Kaempfer

Meet New Neighbors Sue and Peter Schriber of Burnt Hill Farm

From Hatfield to Heath
From horses to blueberries

Peter and Susan Schriber, looking for some years for a new challenge, happened on Burnt Hill by accident. One look from the road was all it took. They called a realtor and in due course took possession of the Cable house and blueberry fields, giving up their boarding and riding horse farm in Hatfield where they bred miniature horses.

This first look took place during the winter months. As Susan explained it, "We didn't see the sunshine until after we bought the place!" SO this past winter was not really such a big surprise.

Peter works in Amherst for National Evaluation Systems to which he commutes every weekday except during the winter when he stays in Amherst during the week. Susan with companion Pug "Elly" weathered the winter in fine style. She loved it all, she explained, especially sitting before the three-sided window looking out over the fields. "No need for television!" Friend Elly, at first reluctant to venture out into the snow, got used to it when provided with the dog version of snow boots.

At one point, huge drifts, blown down from the fields, entrapped her car until Alvin Hillman dug her out. She has high praise for all the help Hillman, Lorin Gowdy, and Margo Newton gave her during this time. Only once did she feel the need to leave, this before the drifts were removed. She sent an SOS to Peter in the valley who came to the rescue with snowshoes. Pulling Elly in a crate, they managed to scale ten foot banks and make their way out.

Sue is entranced by the beauty of the place, by the "awesome energy" of the winter, and by the ever-present wildlife which abounds. She has seen bear, moose, wolf, deer, coyote, porcupine, a golden eagle, and the Heath peacock.

For their first season last summer, Jack Cable ran the blueberry side of things, but this year the Schribers are on their own with the aid of a devoted crew led by Lorin Gowdy. The fields will be open for pick-your-own Thursday through Sunday, and pre-picked, ten and twenty-pound boxes can be ordered.

For them, Heath is definitely home, and Elly loves blueberries!

Community Hall

At a recent meeting with Bruce Hunter, from HRA, he informed us that the cupola would be repaired and reinstalled on the Community Hall. That was a pleasant surprise. The committee thought it would have to be done through private funding. The grant timeline is as follows: Design by November, Bids in December and Construction to start in January 2004.

The new kitchen will be beautiful. Also the dining hall will receive a new floor, ceiling, and lights. Although the hall has functioned very well, this will be a plus! We are looking forward to having a grand opening once the work is done.

The hall is still available for functions. If interested call Dolly Churchill at 337-8880 for information.

~ Val Kaempfer
Hall Committee

The Serenade

For ten weeks we waited and cautiously slept,
In fear that outside our windows they crept.
I speak not of goblins, nor of fanged wild beast,
For these did concern us not in the least.
But folks of all ages, neighbors and kin
Who'd shock us from slumber, they'd make such a din.
Shivaree, serenade, call it a hornin':
We knew that one night they'd come without warnin'.
Too many such nights were part of my past
To avoid the comeuppance to get me at last.
My wife thought it cruel that she'd have to pay
Equally for the pranks of my day.
This I assured her was part of the pact:
"For better, for worse—so cheer up, in fact
Merciful treatment to newlyweds past
Was no guarantee such mercy would last."
And thus it occurred one dark Friday night:
From sound, pleasant sleep we 'woke bolt upright
To a clanging of pots and chainsaws blaring,
Horns, bells and whistles; fireworks flaring.
Then thirty-four hellions—not one have we missed -
(Don't worry, we've got their names on a list)
Entered the house all laden with gear
For a midnight repast and spreading of cheer.
The party continued for hours, I think,
With plenty to eat and plenty to drink,
Though to us it seemed like a very short spell,
'Til they toasted our wedding and bade us farewell.
Back into the night they went on their way
For a few hours sleep before the new day,
Leaving us somewhat stunned, but feeling quite well,
With a warmth in our hearts and a story to tell.
How neighbors and friends should forego their rest
To celebrate marriage and wish us their best.
Our thanks are due those who tradition have kept...
But now that it's over, more soundly we've slept!

~ By Eric Sumner

Heath Happenings 20 Years Ago

From the August/September 1983 *Heath Herald*

"Come to the Fair" by Lewis Nichols
Ed Calver on Japanese Beetles
Heath Fair Cookbook on sale
New Librarian appointed — Mrs. Jane Wishart
Heath Historical Society's raffle for
Dominic Musacchio's Hutch
Road signs for Heath and a new red motorcycle
for the police
Organ recital at the Heath Union Church

("Heath Happenings 20 Years Ago" continued on page 19)

Blueberries

Dear Friends,

Yes, that time has finally arrived...Blueberry picking on the Hill began on Thursday, July 31st!!!

We will be open for "Pick Your Own" 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday through Sunday for as long as the berries last. Cost is \$1.00 per pound and \$1.00 per box if you need it. Pre-picked 10-pound and 20-pound boxes are available for pickup by ORDER. Please call 337-4454 if you wish to place an order. Cost for pre-picked berries is \$14.00 for 10-pound box; \$27.00 for a 20-pound box.

We expect to be very busy during this season. The fields opened for picking are COMMERCIAL FIELDS which means you will be picking the best of the berries and those that are usually reserved for wholesale accounts. So, expect the picking to be good as long as the weather stays on our side. Please come early in the season to avoid being disappointed. The berries typically sell out quickly.

Please note that the Hill is not open for walking on the land during picking. There is too much farm traffic to allow you to wander. So visits to the stones and the circle will not be allowed during this time. But, we trust that your experience picking here and taking home Hill berries will be enough to feed your spirit!!!

We look forward to seeing you!!!!

Blessings,
Sue Schriber
Lorin Gowdy, Farm Manager

The *Herald* encourages all Heath writers and those who have never thought they could but have been itching to give it a try to submit their creative efforts on any subject of their choosing.



24 West Main Street, Heath, MA 01346 p/f 413 . 337 . 5736

PTP NEWS

The Heath Elementary School Parent-Teacher-Partnership elected officers for the 2003-2004 school year at their last meeting. Co-chairs are Robin Jenkins and Trish Archambault, Secretary is Elizabeth LaPointe, and Treasurer is Amy Wales.

Thank you to all who supported our Town Wide Yard Sale. It was a great success!

The school will be collecting unused sport equipment for the newly developed district's sport equipment swap shop. Equipment can be dropped off at the school.

Please come visit us at the Heath Fair. We plan to have our miniature golf game plus a few new games this year for all to try. We also will be having an Art Tent where children can make several different projects. Plus we will be selling raffle tickets for the Preschool and Elementary school children's raffle. The following is what will be raffled off: Cordless Drill, Berkshire Sweet Gold Maple Syrup, Shelburne Falls Agway Gift Certificate, Maple House Bed & Breakfast Overnight, Hand Carved Wooden Salad Servers, Sterling Silver Earrings, Handblown Glass Ornament, Handmade Ukrainian Egg, Wagon-Ride, Family Cross-country Ski Pass, Assorted Children's Gift Bags, Rafting Trip Gift Certificate, Bob Dane Drinking Glasses, and a Wall Hanging. Drawing will be held at the Fair on Sunday, August 17. Hope to see you at the fair!

~ Robin Jenkins

Contamination Jeopardizes Recycling

Residents in western Massachusetts are zealous recyclers and most towns have a high recycling rate. Recently, however, residents are trying to recycle a variety of plastic products that are not acceptable at the Springfield recycling facility. The most common items that cannot be recycled are flower pots and trays, grocery bags, motor oil jugs, baby carriages, chairs, laundry hampers, plastic toys, compact disc holders, and plastic hangers. The best way for residents to recycle the right plastic is to only recycle food, beverage, and detergent bottles, including shampoo and soap containers.

"Residents are eager to recycle as much as they can," said Jan Ameen, Executive Director of the Solid Waste District. "People think that if plastic has a number and the recycling symbol on it, then it's okay. Unfortunately, the plastics industry puts that on everything but not everything can be recycled. It's very confusing. Residents will have to relearn what can be recycled, otherwise towns will start paying extra for contaminated loads."

Another problem area showing up in the recycling is glass contamination. Similar to plastics, only food and beverage containers can be recycled. Unacceptable glass includes dishes, drinking glasses, baking dishes, window glass, and light bulbs. These materials should not be recycled.

The district's Web site has a list of what can and can't be recycled in all Franklin County towns. The site is located at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. For more information, call the district office at 772-2438.

The Burringtons

“Change is the only constant.” I have often heard this phrase used, and I use it myself when trying to find an explanation for the constant metamorphosis modern life asks of us here in this quiet place. Perhaps because this place can seemingly change so little when real change occurs it seems so extreme. At least it seems extreme to me. I have been in Heath for all but one year of my life. I have seen and heard of many changes that never quite took root here. Change is all around us, and within our private circles as well.

The largest, most recent change for me, came this past winter when my folks, Paul and Nancy Burrington, told me that they had decided to sell their place at 55 Rt. 8A South. The fact that they would always live there was a foregone conclusion in my mind. There was no other place for them. That house was the base for my father’s forty-something-year-old general contracting business. The shop was an extension of the man; the two were inseparable in my mind. To think of them leaving “the hill” seemed about as likely as lemmings taking flight. However, I was to learn, change is constant.

I finally swallowed the immediate shock and then started in, moving my own things out of that house. This led to a reaction that I believe comes from deep in the Burrington male gene,... I started reminiscing.

I went back as far as the nineteen sixties, for that’s when it all started for me. But the vivid stories my father and mother had relayed took me to a time when Heath, like the rest of the country, was gripped in the second World War. In 1947 “the old Pike place” was sold to a family from New Jersey. My maternal grandfather, Malcolm Chatten, moved his family here to farm the 200 acres just acquired. The house was run-down, and would receive little attention as the farm took so much time and all the money to keep it going. My mother remembered that Rachel Sumner was using her sedan as a school bus and it was packed with children from South Heath. I think she had to sit on Walt Gleason’s lap for her first ride at least. There were Burringtons, Sumners, and Gleasons.

Time has a way of slipping by, and my parents were wed in the old farmhouse. A few years later they moved there to help my grandparents. A few years after that they bought the place. I started life living at the old place, a sixth generation Heathan. It was great growing up in the woods. That is where I was to start. Then my father introduced me to some of his tools. From that point on, I lived in the barn where the shop was. I enjoyed making my own toys. I was limited only by imagination and materials. Life was good.

All of my siblings had a place to escape to. My oldest sister, Neena, would go to her room. Betsy, next in line, was a constant reader and a talented artist. The youngest girl, Sue, had a place that rivaled the shop and maybe it was even better. She’d find friend Kris Stetson and the two of them would go brook fishing. They did it often, and we began calling them Huck and Tom after those more famous avid fishermen.

Father had worked on the old place and restored it from below the ground up to the ridge pole. There’s a picture of it in 1973 and it was truly a showplace. Fresh white paint on the clapboards, accented with the dark green shutters. Father had made a wonderful set of stone steps before the shed door we

used as an entry most often, and he used every type of stone that can be found in Heath. It was a nice touch to the entry.

About 1975 I started hearing my parents talk about a plan to build a new house up in the woods to the north. It was then, that an old cellar hole in the woods was dug out for a new foundation. My father trusted the knowledge of the land that the early inhabitants had. If it was a good enough place for them, it was good enough. Sure enough, it was one of the few spots where there was a hole in the ledge. The new foundation just fit.

Father built a fine house on that foundation. However, like I said before, I am not one to embrace change. I remember not wanting to move into the new place, and pining for the old house for years to come.

Eventually I was easily won over by the new shop. Father and I spent a lot of time in there fixing this or that. Sometimes he would get a job making cabinets for a kitchen. He and Roger Clark would transform that kindly old shop into an efficient production shop. I enjoyed the sounds of industry around the place when they were at work.

I ended up leaving and finding an apartment in Heath. That was for five or six years. I eventually returned, but this time I brought a Miss Laurie Wheeler with me. Living with my parents went really very well. This doesn’t always have to be the case. Laurie was attracted to the garden space that Father had carved out behind the house years before. It was almost an acre in size, a great hole in the middle of the woods. There was a thin wall of forest between the house and the garden. It was nice to stop there in the shade when one was hot and sticky from an afternoon working in the garden.

Laurie and I started looking into the possibility of having an herb garden there. Laurie was a budding horticulturist and wanted to collect old varieties of plants for seed saving. Father accompanied us out to the garden and between us all we decided that the place for Laurie’s garden would be on a spot that was very hard tillage. Every year the ledges deep down would send up (what seemed in the one tilling) the materials for an entire stone wall. It was nice flat stone, and easy to work with, but there was always so much of it. The next year we picked the stone for that purpose and built that stone wall around a ten-foot by fifteen-foot rectangle. There was brick for paths and soon Laurie was up to her elbows in glorious soil. She was one happy camper. In years to come she would find herself and her garden on local garden tours. Some of you may remember. Life was good.

For the past five or so years, Laurie and I have lived with my cousin Todd Sumner at South Road. The fields and open sky remind me of the way it was at the old place, before we moved. Then last winter came the call. Mom told me that I had to move all of my stuff. I had a sneaking suspicion that I may have had more things there than they did. After moving it all, I think we’re about tied. I had to move my studio, my half of the shop, and various outcroppings of accumulated things “I might need some day.” There was a mountain of things to part with. Some things were sold, and some things were thrown away. It was a hard thing to do, just throwing some things away, when it’s your nature to save things for later. The lessons the Great Depression taught run deep in these hills still today. You never know how close to the bone you may have to live some day.

(“The Burringtons” continued on page 15)

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT - WHY THE TAX INCREASE FOR FY04?

The culmination of nearly six months work on the FY04 budget by Town Officials occurred at the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) on Saturday, June 28, 2003. Normally, the ATM would have been over with by early May, but it was delayed because of the State coping with its income shortfall in funding the FY04 budget. According to the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation (MTF) this situation had been anticipated for the last two years due to (1) the growth in health care and human services costs that amount to nearly fifty percent of the State's budget, (2) the loss of capital gains income from the declining stock market, (3) the phasing in of the voter-approved cut in the income tax rate and (4) the lingering recession that bled jobs and income from the State's economy. Bringing spending in line with income was neither an easy task nor one that many wished to face up to. One might think that in such times, reductions in spending and hence taxes should be the order of the day. But no, the perception of "fixed needs" remains strong and results in additional spending and increased taxes.

For FY04 Heath's budget increased \$122,015 or about \$2.30 in taxes, which has been partially offset by Free Cash and Overlay Surplus funds for a net increase of a \$1.54. The **estimated** tax rate for FY04 is \$22.15 per \$1000 valuation. (This figure excludes modest interest costs for the new fire truck.) What are the major causes of the increase?

SCHOOL BUDGETS

The eight towns in the Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) delayed their town meetings because of hopes that draconian cuts in Chapter 70 School Aid and busing support would not come to pass. Unfortunately the wait did not help matters. Several districts in Western Massachusetts suffered severe reductions in Chapter 70 Aid, but the majority of schools, especially those in cities, squeaked by with either modest losses or even modest increases. The culprit in the process is the Ed Reform Formula, which has been "tweaked" nearly every year since its inception in 1993. The MTF notes that while the State has succeeded in fulfilling the key financial commitment required for education reform (school aid increased from \$1.29 billion in 1993 to \$3.25 billion in 2003), the current distribution is far from perfect. Further, the MTF believes the school aid approach has been "broken" since FY2000 when all districts reached the foundation spending standard. Since then flat amounts per student plus the use of three dissimilar formulas have been used to distribute Aid, which may have added to the difficulty in making allocations for FY04. This is too complex a subject for this report, but it appears that for FY04 the Foundation Base was altered along with a couple of other factors in the formula, all in the interest of Equity and, perhaps, to correct recent practices. "Equity" is the concept that each district supports education at a level comparable to all other districts according to its ability to pay.

We tried to persuade the Governor and the Legislature early on to essentially freeze the budget or reduce it modestly and maintain the FY03 formula numbers for FY04 pending further study,

which the Legislature has indicated it will do later this year. This request didn't fly. The Governor and Legislators apparently believed they had to do what they did, but serious questions linger as to whether or not it was fair as well as legal. There is a current court case known as *Hancock v. Driscoll* that reopens the 1993 McDuffy case relative to the State providing public school students an equal education regardless of their communities' ability to pay. The issues are the amount of money allocated to education and the method of distribution.

To summarize, the total appropriation of Chapter 70 money for K-12 schools for FY04 was about \$3.14 billion, down 4.6% from \$3.25 billion for FY03. The Mohawk Trail Regional School District's (MTRSD) reduction was 19.6%, down from \$7,345,280 to \$5,904,434. In addition, Transportation Aid was reduced some \$390,000! These numbers may have changed a little recently, but not significantly. Further, Heath's actual increase in capital and operating assessment for FY04 was the highest percentage increase in the MTRSD, 11.4%. Colrain's was 8% and the others were in the 2% to 4% range. The absence of Excess Debt and new 2000 Census numbers may have had something to do with it, but Heath seems to continue experiencing anomalies in the formula.

To the credit of the MTRSD Administration and, School Committee they cut the budget and held to their original assessment figures to the towns by controlling costs and using available funds creatively. Because there was an excess of over 5% in surplus funds, reimbursements were made to the towns; Heath received \$17,763 as its share. It also helped that nine teachers retired. Total school costs represent 60% of Heath's levy, the amount that has to be raised by tax appropriations. Those costs include MTRSD, Franklin County Tech, Preschool, capital costs for the Heath School and School Committee persons

OTHER BUDGET INCREASES

Health Care costs for the Town rose 30% from \$27,150 to \$36,390 due to the addition of one employee and a rise in rates of 5%. This increase in rate is not too bad when compared with increases elsewhere, but family coverage per employee now costs \$10,338 of which Heath contributes 75%. We all read about the cost trends of health care, which seem out of control. Heath is part of the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust, a professionally administered group, but, this last year, events occurred that ratcheted up costs - acquisition of a group with inherent high costs, unanticipated claims and unrealistic forecasts of cost trends. And, then there are always new developments that claimants wish to take advantage of.

Casualty and Property coverage costs continue to rise, perhaps in part as the result of 9/11. After many years with MIIA, the insurance arm of Massachusetts Municipal Association, there is a need to add competition to the process. MIIA has been generally less costly than commercial insurance organizations, but now the FinCom has asked the BOS to put insurance coverage out to bid for FY05.

Highway Department expenses are second only to school costs in the Town's budget. Maintaining 52 miles of roads summer and winter is a never-ending job. This past winter was very difficult and cost the Town over \$20,000 more in sand and salt

("Finance Committee Report" continued on page 8)



Library Lines

If You Love a Mystery



By Charlene Churchill

We are interested in starting a Mystery Lovers Book Group at the library. There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the library if you are interested in joining. We will hold an initial meeting in September to plan when we will meet and what we would like to read. If you like mysteries please sign up!

We also have a new blue notebook on the table at the front of the library. It is divided into three sections: Reviews, Comments, and Suggestions. The Reviews section gives our patrons an opportunity to write a review of a book they have read or a movie they have watched. Then others can read the reviews to help them pick their next book or movie or maybe decide what to avoid!

The Comments section is an area where library visitors may write about our services, our staff, our space, our programs and offer ideas for improving our library or whatever.

The Suggestions area gives people the chance to offer ideas for new materials they would like to have purchased for the library. Please indicate title, author, and the format you would like, for example, book, video, DVD, etc. We may not be able to obtain everything that is suggested but we will do our best.

Entries in the notebook don't have to be signed, but if you would like us to respond personally to comments or suggestions please include your name and telephone number or E-mail address.

Some of the new unabridged Audiotapes and CDs, that were purchased with our 2003 grant from the Heath Council on Aging and matching funds from donations of our library patrons, are:

Books on Tapes

Shutter Island by Dennis Lehane, *The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien, *Black Plumes* by Margery Allingham, *Flashback* by Nevada Barr, *By the Light of the Moon* by Dean Koontz, *The King of Torts* by John Grisham, *Mount Vernon Love Story* by Mary Higgins Clark, *Grand Avenue* by Joy Fielding, and *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Books on CD

All He Ever Wanted by Anita Shreve, *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren

("Finance Committee Report" continued from page 7)

than was in the budget. We added \$5,000 to that budget for FY04 as a precautionary measure. Also, using Highway Department personnel to do mowing in the cemeteries and in the Center proved not to be efficient use of their time and equipment; thus, \$5,000 was appropriated for that purpose. And vehicle gas and oil prices have increased as well as usage during the past winter so \$1,000 more was added to that account.

Finally, employees were given a 2% increase just to keep up with inflation. It does not seem fair to not award increases locally when school district personnel, for example, are given step and inflationary increases. Considerable time was spent looking at positions and personnel practices during the year. A few adjustments were made for changes in hours and duties. The total cost of these adjustments for FY04 was \$18,536.

So, there you have it. The ATM voted for the increases. We, the FinCom, are concerned about the effect of higher taxes on taxpayers with fixed and/or lower incomes. We will continue to strive for better results.

Finally, Heath is a low-growth town. 98.5% of taxes are raised via residential/personal property assessments, the balance from commercial valuations. Little attention has been paid to generating other sources of income or to improving the capital base. Increasing demands for services cannot continue with-

out examining this situation. The Legislature has indicated it will research other resources/methods to fund education, which is badly needed considering increasing demands on that sector of our communities.

~ Dave Howland

COUNCIL ON AGING NEWS

Our very popular Senior Luncheons are in full swing twice a month, the first and third Thursdays. Reservations must be made the morning **Before** the day attending. Call Dot Sessions, at 337-4896. The donation fee is \$1.75 for those 55-years-old and over and \$2.50 for those under 55. All are welcome. (Mohawk Estates people take note.) The meal is good, and the conversation even better. Join us.

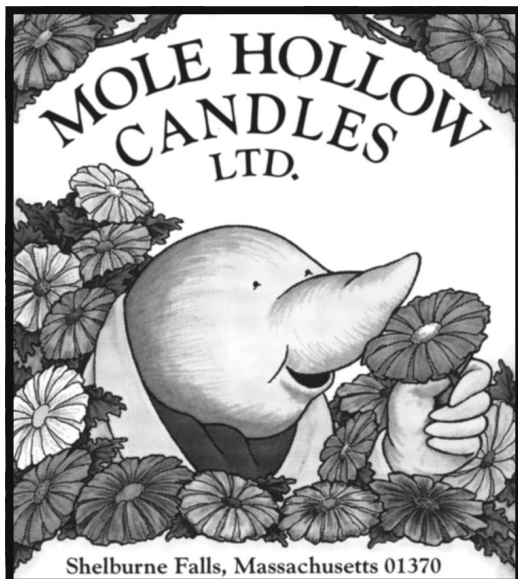
We still hope to plan some one-day bus trips for the fall. Call Teresa Peters for information at 339-5354.

In addition, we welcome any suggestions you may have for programs or entertainment. Call me at 337-4852. Enjoy the Summer!

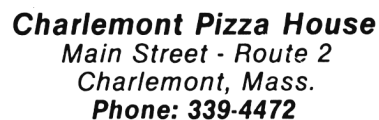
~ Alli Thane-Stetson

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Town Nurse Notes

Seasonal Allergies



By Joanne Fortune, RN

It seems that every year I meet more people suffering from seasonal hay fever, or pollen allergy. Every spring, summer, and fall, tiny particles are released from trees, weeds, and grasses to fertilize parts of other plants. The wind carries the pollen and a lot of it enters human noses and throats causing allergic rhinitis.

The microscopic pollen grains are round or oval. The types of pollen that cause allergic reactions are produced by plain-looking plants such as trees, grasses, and weeds that do not have showy flowers. These plants manufacture small, light, dry pollen granules for wind transport that can travel for long distances. (Some ragweed pollen has been collected 400 miles out at sea). It does no good to rid an area of offending plants because the pollen can drift in from many miles away and a single ragweed plant can generate a million grains of pollen a day.

It is the chemical makeup of pollen that determines whether or not it can cause hay fever. For example, pine pollen is produced in large amounts but is heavy and falls straight down without scattering so it's not a good candidate for causing an allergy. Most flowering plants rely on insects to move their pollen.

Weeds are the most prolific producers of allergenic pollen, ragweed being the major culprit. Others are sagebrush, redroot pigweed, lamb's quarters, Russian thistle, and English plantain. The grasses include timothy grass, Kentucky bluegrass, Johnson grass, Bermuda grass, redbud grass, orchard grass, and sweet vernal grass. The offending trees include oak, ash, elm, hickory, pecan, box elder, and mountain cedar.

The pollen count we hear on the radio represents the concentration of all the pollen in the air in a certain area at a specific time. It is expressed in grains of pollen per square meter of air collected over 24 hours. The count tends to be highest early in the morning on warm, dry, breezy days and lowest during chilly, wet periods.

There are three approaches for relief from pollen allergies. They are avoidance, medications to relieve the symptoms, and getting a series of allergy shots. Avoidance includes staying inside during the times of highest pollen count. If you must be out during this time, you can wear a face mask designed to filter pollen. Another method of avoidance is to take your vacation during the time of the highest pollen count for the plant that is the most disturbing.

Irritants such as chemicals can worsen airborne allergy symptoms and should be avoided as much as possible. During periods of high pollen levels, people should avoid unnecessary exposure to irritants such as insect sprays, tobacco smoke, air pollution, and fresh tar or paint.

I continue to see people in their homes on Tuesdays, and I'm in the Community Hall from 12-1 p.m. on Tuesdays. If you or anyone you know would like a visit, please call me at 774-2958. Thank you.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS FLASH!

Going to the Heath Fair? For your pleasure the Historical Society's Solomon Temple Barn Museum will be open Friday, August 15 from 5 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, August 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will be offering our publications for sale as usual and raffle tickets as well.

Raffle - This year a beautiful handmade quilted wall hanging will be raffled off for the benefit of our Conservation Fund. This valuable quilt was made by Marcia Tiernan of Waddington, NY, who donated it to us for the raffle. The quilt measures 42x55 inches and is in the "Twisted Bargello" pattern with dark greens and gold predominating. Single raffle tickets will sell for \$1.00 or you may purchase seven tickets for \$5.00. The drawing will be held at our Annual Meeting.

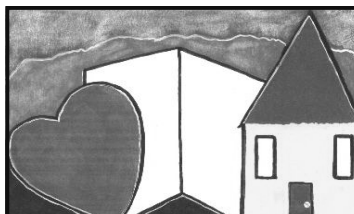
Annual Meeting and Supper - The Society's Annual Meeting and Supper will be held on Saturday, September 27 in Heath's Community Hall. The speaker will be Eric Bye of Chester who will present a program on old-time music. Mr. Bye, a

self-taught musician and student of ethnic and folk music, is a foreign language educator, Revolutionary War translator and reenactor.

Historical Society members, friends, and townspeople all are welcome. For reservations call Dot Sessions at 337-4896.

See you there!

~ Pegge Howland



Friends of the Heath School Library

To raise funds for the Heath School Library, the Friends of the Heath School Library will hold a tag sale at the Heath Fair. Many choice items will be on sale!

Please support our efforts to support our children's school library!

Heath Business Directory

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337-5340

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337-4705

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337-4948

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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

C. Richards Steinbock
Graphic Design
337-4746

Tripp's Blueberries
Taylor Brook Road
337-4964

Paul Turnbull
Janice Boudreau
Commercial/Wedding Photographers
337-4033

Bonnie Wodin
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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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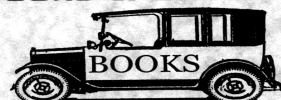
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The Way It Is In The Country

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

Ode to a Stoneboat

By Carroll Stowe

A little used or remembered item of homemade farm tools was a stoneboat. To someone not versed in the simple tools of use on farms years past, a stoneboat could be fashioned very inexpensively with a few half-inch carriage bolts of length enough to reach through two thicknesses of plank. A stoneboat has no standard width or length. Every one ever built had the imagination built in to it of its builder.

Years back a cast steel stoneboat head could be bought at most any farm supply store. I've no idea if they are still available. That method of creating a boat was not as satisfactory as using plank sawed in a sawmill with the nose end being sawed with a small amount of pitch to the plank so as not to dig into the dirt. The cast steel stoneboat head was rather heavy and would cut into plowed ground some.

The personality of the builder enhances the usefulness of this simple aid to moving heavy objects. The personality of a stoneboat is only magnified by the yoke of cattle or team of horses on the end of the hook. Tractors also work well on the pulling end. As most folks who've worked plowed ground picking rock understand, the cattle or horses pulling the boat are really helpful as there's no need to constantly climb up onto the iron horse.

I never felt that picking rock off a plowed field was a bad job. Even today I would enjoy picking rock with a good working team.

Years ago when I worked part-time for Mrs. Carey in Rowe I helped Rev. Riggan dig and replant a number of swamp pink bush. When we had the pink bushes loosened and the holes dug to replant them, it seemed a problem to move the heavy ball of dirt. I was able to borrow Howard Thompson's stoneboat and power it with my cub Farmall tractor. It was an easy task to load those pink bushes on the boat and deliver them to their new spot on Stone Hill.

After the pinks were in place it was thought that Mr. Carey would like to be able to see the pinks at their new position but as it was not easy for him to travel over rough terrain he felt it impossible to observe the planting. So we positioned Mr. Carey in a folding lawn chair on Howard's boat. Few people have I pleased as much as Pete Carey with his ride around his property on a stoneboat with his wife steadying him in the lawn chair.

Years ago Ken Crowningshield told of a man and wife who lived where Ken and his family lived, the next-to-the-last place on 8A before crossing into Vermont. This fellow was blessed with a very non-petite wife so on occasion he would position her on a rugged-made chair on a stoneboat and go for a Sunday drive around the farm so she could observe what he had been working at. No one that I've asked about this little piece of history has any memory of it.

Stoneboats have no standard size, length, or width. One could be created to go well with a lawn tractor or such. I would be happy to advise anyone interested in putting one together. They last longer if they can be tipped up against a tree or post on some sticks to keep the lower edge out of the dirt. Happy stoneboating.

Church News

This is a busy summer for the Church as it seems to be for everyone. We have welcomed many new folks to our worship services on Sunday mornings as well as greeted many summer friends who come to Heath each year once the snow has gone.

Everyone is welcome at our Sunday service that is held at 10:00 a.m. every week.

As is the custom, on the Sunday of the Fair, our worship service will be held under the big tent on the fairgrounds at 9:30 a.m. We hope to see many of you there.

The Church will again have a booth on the midway during the Fair. This year we will have blueberry cake and other homemade desserts plus bottled drinks. Our "God Loves Heathens" T-shirts will also be available for purchase. The shirt has been such a popular item that we have had to reorder. New for purchase this year will be a white coffee mug with a depiction of the church building. Make sure to stop by and see us!

~ Hilma Sumner
Interim Minister

Selectboard's Report

The Selectboard meets every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall.

Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting was delayed to June 28 this year because of uncertainties over the State budget and the Mohawk District assessment. A total of thirty articles were on this year's warrant. A budget of \$1,291,007 was approved, including \$504,799 for the Mohawk Trail Regional School District assessment and \$82,733 for the Franklin County Technical School assessment. An article authorizing the purchase of a new fire engine for a sum not to exceed \$195,000 was approved.

Other significant articles considered and approved were an article to authorize the building inspection program to dissolve itself and become a department of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG); nine articles dealing with revisions to the Mohawk Trail Regional School agreement including changes to the composition of the school committee, and two articles giving the Town the right to withhold permits or licenses for delinquent taxes.

An article to adopt provisions of Massachusetts General Law which allow a building inspector to engage in the business for which he is providing inspectional services provided he does not inspect his own work or the work of his employer, employees, or anyone employed with him was defeated. The meeting also defeated an article to adopt a bylaw regulating unregistered vehicles.

Special Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting was held at the school prior to the Annual Town Meeting to transfer funds from surpluses to under-funded accounts. Four articles were voted and passed.

Community Hall

The design contract for the Senior Center Project in the Community Hall was awarded to Leon Pernice Associates of West Springfield, MA. Leon Pernice was the architect for the elevator installation in the Community Hall. Meetings with the architect on the design of the new Senior Center will be scheduled soon.

Sawyer Hall

The Town has awarded the contract for the elevator project at Sawyer Hall to Kurtz Incorporated of Westfield, MA. Kurtz was the low bidder of four bids received. Excavation and foundation work has commenced. The project should be completed by the beginning of next year.

Summer Schedule

The Board will be meeting every other Tuesday evening until Labor Day. Meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. on 8/5, 8/19, and 9/2.

Heath On-line

Take some time to visit the Town's home page 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. Send messages to any board or individual via the E-mail address, or visit the Heath home page.

~ Heath Selectboard
Thomas Lively - Chair
Brian De Vriese
Sheila Litchfield



From the Desk of the Town Coordinator

By Rebecca Jurek

Got a Business in Heath?

Make sure I know about it! I am creating a Business Directory. In an effort to provide a source of information to inquiring residents in the area, I am requesting all businesses in Heath to mail, E-mail/fax/drop off their business card to me at Town Office (see below for contact information). A directory by business type will be created for my reference, and will be available to the public as requested. This will provide a valuable resource to inquiries that are received at Town Office on a weekly basis. The directory will be updated periodically.

Building Project Update

The handicapped accessibility project is moving along at Town Office. The site work for the installation of the elevator has begun. A slight delay in the project has occurred due to zoning restrictions, however, it is projected that toward the end of August more significant progress will be apparent to passersby.

Grant News - Work continues to be made in securing grant funds for the town. Through the Executive Office of Public Safety and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, funds to cover our Emergency Management expenses for the year are intact. Also, the Public Safety Office, along with the Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Services, and the American Heart Association, has awarded the town two automated external defibrillators through a grant program. These units have been received and issued to the Fire Department. A grant application has been submitted to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs to secure Council on Aging funds. As a point of information, the award figure is based on each community's 60 and older population as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau. If awarded, this grant provides the funding for the entire budget for the Council on Aging. We have been successful in securing funds for several years and are keeping our fingers crossed that this year is no exception. A grant application has also been submitted under the Older Americans Act to secure additional funding for services provided by the Town Nurse. Awards for these two submissions will be made in August. In relation

("Town Coordinator" continued on page 15)

Assessors Report

Happy new fiscal year, Heath taxpayers!

As the newest and most ignorant member of the Board of Assessors, I have been deputed to report on the doings at our office. As most of you are already aware, the long-serving Don Dekker has stepped down from his post, and I am attempting to fill his jumbo-sized assessing shoes, inventorying the contents of the office, acquainting myself with the FAX machine and the supply closet, and getting used to the peculiar dual address system we enjoy here in Heath.

In deference to the current regime in Washington, we encourage all to think of us as assessators, and our work as assessation, or even as assessafication. In order to save the town money we will not be changing our letterhead or forms to reflect this terminologification, but inside we know where we stand.

Everyone should by now have received bills for the first two quarterly property tax payments. Bear in mind that these are estimated bills, based on last year's tax rate, since the current fiscal year's rate has not been set yet. If you believe you have been improperly taxed, please fill out an abatement form (available on the door of the assessator's office in Sawyer Hall) within thirty days after you receive your bill in December. By law we cannot consider any abatements until then, and submitting forms now only risks them getting lost in the furious maelstrom of paper that lashes our desks and rages within our filing cabinets. We have entered our second year of quarterly billing of property taxes, and, although it introduces some extra confusion due to the necessity of estimating the first two bills, this system saves us all money by providing the town with revenue at the beginning of the fiscal year instead of halfway through, which obviates the need to borrow money (with the resulting interest) to run things until December. Let us, therefore, give a mighty huzzah for quarterly billing!

We have recently acquired a digital camera with which to document properties. Possibly we may be able to integrate these pictures with the database at some point, which would be wicked cool. We also have the ability, due to the digital format, to convert photographs of houses and outbuildings into line "drawings" which could be used to create an entertaining coloring book for the youngsters. This new piece of equipment constitutes a substantial improvement over the faded woodcuts which have heretofore been used to represent Heath properties in the assessators' records.

Thanks to the tireless labors of Henry Leuchtman, maps of all the tracts of property in town are nearly complete, needing only their final edit. Although these maps are a great improvement over what has been available before, they are not legally authoritative and undoubtedly are somewhat imprecise. Anyone who has read a deed describing property boundaries in terms of a spike in a tree which may or may not be standing anymore or a boulder so many rods from a stone wall can easily grasp why absolute precision is hard to come by. Once the maps are ready anyone who would like to inspect them and suggest corrections is welcome to do so.

lustitia et aequibitas,
~ Michael Wilmeth
Board of Assessators

(*"Town Coordinator"* continued from page 14)

to grant funds, the second floor meeting room which provides office space for town office staff, with the exception of the Assessors office, will be getting reorganized within the coming months. Grant funds have been received and dedicated to upgrading work areas for staff. These changes are taking place in part as a result of building modifications due to the handicapped accessibility project.

Contact Information

In an effort to provide electronic access to the Board of Health and Tax Collector, the Board of Health and Tax Collector are now on-line. Addresses are as follows: boh@townofheath.org, and taxcollector@townofheath.org. A complete list of E-mail addresses and telephone numbers for all Board and Committee members is available at Town Office.

Notary Service

Need something notarized? I have recently become a Notary Public and offer notary service at Town Office, as well as at my residence. I do not charge for this service. Feel free to contact me.

Contact Information for Town Coordinator

Town Office: 337-4934, Fax 337-8542, E-mail: bos@townofheath.org. Home: (413) 624-8816.

Town Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Tuesdays, 2:00 until 7:00 p.m.

(*"The Burringtons"* continued from page 6)

Then again, all that stuff takes so much time and space to keep. This was the lesson that confronted us time and time again, as we worked to clear away the attic. I found that I was saving some of my Father's things. The archives, as Father and I like to refer to our overstuffed attic space, was eventually cleared. It took the help of some dedicated friends to get it emptied, but it was finally done.

It is a strange thing to wander in an entirely empty house. Especially if it has always held your dearest memories and the memories of those dearest to you. How many times had I stared into the flames in the fireplaces during Christmas time. The seasons of many years we enjoyed. Weathering our trials, and our own human frailties, as well as finding and enjoying our many strengths. The empty rooms cause me to comment to myself and the sound echoes in my ears. I didn't go back into the house after a certain point. It just wasn't the thing to do anymore.

Last weekend we moved my sister Sue Croteau out of her little house. I was surprised to find myself driving up the driveway to 55 Rt. 8A. I did it out of habit. So I drove up to the front of the garage, backed around, turned, and drove out again. It was someone else's place.

~ Fred Burrington

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Joshua Smith

Hilma Churchill Sumner, Heath Union Church Interim Pastor

A person of many talents and Heath citizen extraordinaire, Hilma Churchill Sumner, has undertaken yet another challenging position. She is currently serving as the interim pastor of the Heath Union Church.

Now officially ministering to her flock, Hilma has seen her service to the Town of Heath in the positions of Selectperson and Town Clerk as a ministry through town government with a mission to work for the best interests of the town.

She is a graduate of Toccoa Falls College in Georgia, where she majored in theology with double minors in New Testament Greek and in counseling.



Returning to Heath in August of 1992, Hilma moved with her two children, Carl and Ruth, into the Churchill family homestead with her parents, Clyde and Ruth Churchill, who subsequently, and for a short while, went to a retirement home in Maine, near daughter Charlene, but missing Heath, they came home and built an apartment for themselves over the barn. Clyde died in 1997, Ruth in 2001.

Hilma was first elected to the Selectboard in May of 1994. At that time she was town reporter for the *West County News* in which capacity she regularly attended the Board's meetings so was well acquainted with the duties she was undertaking.

She resigned from the Board in August 1999, to apply for June Day's unfinished term as town clerk and was appointed to the position in October and was reelected to the Selectboard in May of 2001. She has recently left the Selectboard to devote time to her ministry but continues as Heath Town Clerk.

The Heath Church had been connected with Village Missions, a non-denominational organization which supplies ministers wherever the need exists. When Pastor Dave Roseland recently retired to his home in Connecticut, Village Missions was unable to supply a permanent minister. Hilma stepped forward and offered to serve as interim minister. The Church members voted unanimously to terminate the connection with Village Missions and to call Hilma as minister until the annual business meeting in October.

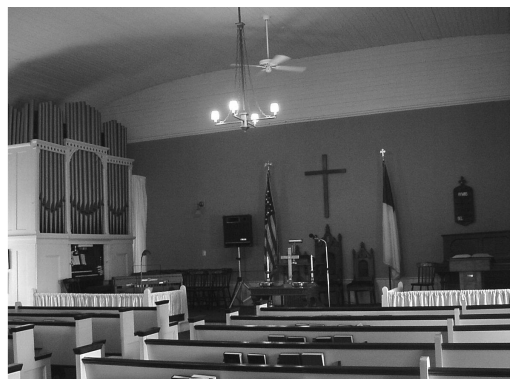
The Board of Deacons of which Hilma has been a member for about nine years, recommended the formation of a Visioning Committee with the dual mandate of conducting a pastoral search and of defining the Church's future goals, first surveying the church family for their thoughts and opinions.

In the meantime, Hilma loves her new duties that include, in addition to conducting the Sunday services and Wednesday Bible study, pastoral counseling and hospital, nursing home, and in-

home visiting. She is looking forward to getting the Children's Church restarted this summer and the teen group in the fall.

The Sumner household includes husband Dick, "my greatest support," and her children, Carl Ayers, 20, a senior at Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY, and Ruth Ayers, 14, who will enter the 9th grade at The Academy At Charlemont in the fall. Heath Library Director, sister Charlene, another source of strong support, lives in the apartment over the barn.

When asked what she sees for herself long term, she expresses great interest in returning to school, an atmosphere she dearly loves, to study, among other things, ancient Hebrew.



The Heath Union Church – The Building

Designed by Col. David Snow and considered "his finest creation," the church was erected in 1833. Over the years, the exterior has remained virtually the same, the exception being the reconstruction of the steeple. Major renovations, however, have been made to the interior. .

The old steeple was hit and damaged by lightning in 1961. A new one was raised by Bruce Stetson on June 24, 1980, with financial help from a very active Ladies Aid. The church bell, forged in 1858, by 1975 needed a new wheel that was constructed by Bruce Cromack and Newland Smith in time for the country's Bicentennial.

The early church interior had two side aisles and thirteen rows of four pews each, a raised organ alcove and vestry, and a balcony. As the town population decreased, the balcony was removed, and several of the back rows of pews were replaced by the "little room." In 1915, the building was repaired, and new pews were installed.

Most recently, the minister's room was remodeled, and new Sunday school rooms were constructed upstairs (1990-1991) with money from the Mildred Crowningshield Memorial Fund.

In 1998, following an inspection, the church was told that due to the deterioration of its underpinnings and the lack of a septic system and running water, the building would either have to be brought up to code or abandoned. Feeling strongly, the church members voted to preserve the building and embarked on an ambitious plan that included putting in a septic system, digging a well, and constructing a full basement with kitchen and two bathrooms.

(*"The Heath Union Church "* continued on page 17)



News from *Your* Heath Fire Department

For starters, this writer, on behalf of the Heath Fire Department, would like to thank all of you who showed up at the Annual Town Meeting and supported our efforts to fund a sorely needed new Engine 1. We realize these vehicles cost a lot of money, but they do a lot of hard work when called into service and they don't last forever, no matter how much we try to make them do it. As was noted at the meeting, there is still a tanker that is on its last legs, and there will always be a need to think about continual replacement, on a regular basis, of all our trucks.

The question of a new fire station/public safety complex also came up. The proposed state grant bill to fund them seems to have died in committee, although there is now a bill in committee to establish a board to oversee these non-existent grants. Go figure. Given the state's financial situation, funding appears unlikely in my lifetime, and such a structure is way beyond the town's means at the moment. We do, however, desperately need bigger and better quarters. It was a real challenge designing a fire truck that carried all that we consider necessary and would still fit in our station, if any of you would like to leave a worthy legacy, feel free to mention the Heath Firefighters' Association in your will!

As of today, 11 July, two towns in Massachusetts had been awarded close to \$336,000 for new fire and rescue vehicles from the federal fire grant program, Heath was not one of them. There are still a few rounds of awards to go, so we continue to keep our fingers crossed. We did get a small DEM wildfire grant that will allow us to outfit almost all of our newer firefighters with proper wildfire turnout gear.

The state has found a creative way to help balance its budget. They are now going to be charging \$50 a year for volunteer firefighters to have a red light permit! We volunteer our time, and now we have to pay to have a device that lets us respond a little more safely. I have received E-mails indicating that, mainly through the efforts of State Senator Stephen Brewer, the registry is going to be rescinding this fee. It's not official, yet, but it looks like it will happen. And I saw in *The Recorder* on Thursday that the state is raising the fees for EMT certification to possibly \$300 a year, up from \$35 a year two years ago, as well as raising the costs for initial training and recertification. Folks, these are people who **VOLUNTEER** their time and energy to go through some pretty rigorous and continual training to be able to respond to **YOUR** medical emergencies, and now the state wants to make them pay through the nose for their efforts. I'd like to suggest to y'all that you write, phone, or E-mail Senator Brewer and Senator Nuforo, both on the Public Safety Committee, and let them know just how outrageous this nickel-dime action is in an effort to balance the state budget. This habit of putting the budget woes on the backs of public safety, education, and social services has got to stop somewhere.

We have a growing and great group of firefighters. There are now seven Junior Firefighters on the department roster! Kids like these are the future of the fire department. We continue to meet on the first and third Thursdays of every month at the fire station and anyone is welcome to come check us out. There's always room for more new members.

As usual, we'll be serving our famous chicken barbeque and root beer at the Heath Fair, so come on by and say hi and buy yourself a good meal.

~ Richards Steinbock

("The Heath Union Church " continued from page 6)

No discussion of the church interior would be complete without a mention of the wonderful Johnson organ which was built in 1851 by William A. Johnson of Westfield who became one of the most important 19th century organ builders. Apparently no church records exist concerning the purchase of the organ ("perhaps from the Whately Church"). Heath minister the Rev. James Childs is believed to be the person instrumental in its acquisition in 1912.

Originally, the air was pumped by hand, usually by a small boy behind the organ. Ralph Dickinson's name is on that back wall. In 1940 electricity came to Heath Center. William Coates gave an electric blower to the church in memory of his mother.

In 1976, the church membership voted to have the organ restored at the suggestion of organist Marietta Kincannon, and John Wessel of Brattleboro was commissioned to disassemble, repair, and clean it and *revoice* the thirteen ranks of pipes, a total of 1144. A "Mostly Baroque" concert was held in August 1977 to raise restoration funds, and in June of 1988, monies were raised for further restoration. At present, there is an ongoing fund to completely overhaul the organ following the completion of the basement project.

(From past *Heath Herald* articles and recent conversations, and, of course, Ed Calver.)

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Milestones

Born May 5, 2003, a son, **Joshua John**, to Laurel Clark and John Thorndike of Colrain; grandson of **Judy and Roger Clark** of Heath and Arlene and Robert Thorndike of Shelburne Falls, and great-grandson of Dorothy Clark of Hawley and of Mabel Thorndike of Goshen.

Born May 28, 2003, a daughter, **Juliana Augustine**, to Marisa Delmaso and James Rode of Turners Falls; granddaughter of Barbara and John Dalmaso of Boring, OR, Mary Hernandez of Greenfield, and **Dianne and Robert Rode** of Heath; great-granddaughter of Augustine Rode of Levittown, NY, and Evelyn Loretz of Raleigh, NC.

Born June 5, 2003, a son, **Christopher Leo**, to April M. Tanner and Richard S. Charette of Charlemont; grandson of **Donna and Robert Tanner** of Heath and Diane F. Charette of Tampa, FL; great-grandson of **Mildred J. Decker** of Heath, Joe and Lula Lawrence of Hawley, and Hilda and Everett H. Menice of Raynham, and great-great-grandson of Joe Mendea of Taunton.

Born June 18, 2003, a son, **Cameren Brandon**, to Tawnya Peters and Jacob Lococo of Shelburne; grandson of Susan and Philip Lococo of Plainfield and Theresa Peters of Shelburne; great-grandson of Jean and Paul Wrisley of Shelburne, Sheila and Ken Chaffee of Hawley, Lilly Lococo of Ohio, **Dawn and Dennis Peters** of Heath, and Paul Lococo of Honolulu, HI, and great-great-grandson of Ann Trumble of Greenfield and of Mildred Horn of Winchester, NH.

Born June 29, 2003, a daughter, **Peregrine Georgia Leigh**, to Deborah McCutchen and Timothy Paulson of Shelburne Falls; granddaughter of **Leighton Mills and Martha J. McCutchen** of Heath; Gaelle Sadgrove of Ngunguru, New Zealand, and Byron and Lois Anderson of Wellington, New Zealand.



Margaret Jane Hamilton Boyd died May 20, 2003. Formerly of Colrain, she resided in Shelburne at the time of her death. Born in Heath, December 5, 1920, she was the daughter of Earl and Della Hamilton.

Mrs. Boyd was predeceased by her husband, James Boyd. Survivors include her son, Walter Boyd and her daughter, June Kimberley, both of Colrain; a brother, David Hamilton of Jonesport, ME; six grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Lillian P. Petrin Burnham of Turners Falls died June 10, 2003. Born in Montague January 31, 1920, she was the daughter of Dominique and Tedor Dubreuil Petrin.

Mrs. Burnham attended Montague public schools and graduated in 1938 from Turners Falls High School.

Survivors include her husband of 63 years, Charles A. Burnham Sr.; three sons, Charles A. Jr. of Lynchburg, VA, Mark J. of Turners Falls, and Raymond D. of West Deerfield; a daughter, **Cynthia Johnson** of Heath; a sister, Rosabelle D. Girard of Turners Falls; five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the churches of St. Anne's and St. Mary's, 90 Seventh St., Turners Falls, MA 01376.

Harry Lorin "Hank" Gowdy of Shelburne died June 10,

2003. Born in Enfield, CT, May 26, 1916, he was the son of Harry A. and Lucy French Gowdy.

He was a graduate of Springfield Technical School. Prior to retirement, Gowdy was a farmer in Shelburne for several years.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, the former Betty M.E. Reynolds; two sons, **Lorin S.** of Heath and Harold W. of Asheboro, NC; a daughter, Carolyn E. Wheeler of Shelburne; five grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Memorial donations may be made to the Shelburne Firefighters Assn., c/o James Burnham, 64 Little Mohawk Rd., Shelburne Falls, MA 01370.

Paul C. Karron of Williamstown, formerly of Shelburne Falls, died July 9, 2003.

Born in Queens, NY, on June 24, 1959, he was the son of George A. and Betty Burns Karron.

Karron was for a time the assistant librarian at the Heath Public Library.

Surviving are his wife, the former Evgunia Kimova, whom he met when he moved to St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1992; his father, George A. Karron of Allentown, PA, and a sister, Carolyn Karron of Mamaroneck, NY.

Michael David Wadham of Conway died June 21, 2003. Born May 16, 1957, in Englewood, NJ, he was the son of Harvey N. and Mary Evelyn Wilson Wadham.

He attended Woolman Hill School in Deerfield.

Wadham worked as a builder for **Charles Seaver** in Heath; as a stone and brick mason with Hearthwarmers in Colrain; as a glassblower with **Robert Dane** in Heath, and as an independent builder and mason during the intervening years.

He was a founder of the Shelburne Falls restaurant, *A Bottle of Bread*, and was a drummer for his band, *Mile Zero*.

Survivors include his wife of 23 years, Elizabeth "Beth" Ahlberg; his daughter, Emily H. and his son, Benjamin, both of Conway; two sisters, Wendy R. London of Greenwich, NY, and Susan N. Filose of Delmar, CA.

Heath Deed Transfers

Pamela J. Anderson, Sherry L. Anderson, and Linda E. Nummy, to Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association, Inc., Mohawk Estates, Lots 13 and 18. \$1.00.

Mark E. Bird, to Mark E. and Stephanie J. Bird, 156 Colrain Stage Road. \$1.00.

Mildred R. Brenner Estate of Pompton Plains, NJ, John Kliphouse and Lynne McGarry, executors, to Lynne McGarry of Stewartsville, NJ, 3 Summer Stetson Road. \$1.00.

Constance D. Burrington to John Mooney and Wanda H. Mooney, Burrington Road. \$1.00.

Phyllis S. and Tom C. Carlson to Tom C. and Robyn Carlson, 23 Jacksonville Stage Road. \$190,000.

Donald L. Coderre Estate, Sheila A. Coderre, administrator, to Patricia Coderre Guyette, Mohawk Estates, Lot 13. \$2,000.

Eric William and Esther L. Danielson to Richard Meyer and S. Ashley Thompson, Underwood Hill Road, Lot 2. \$21,000.

Brian J. Desautels by CitiMortgage Inc. of Missouri to CitiMortgage Inc., 2 Waterfall Drive. \$84,884.

("Heath Deed Transfers" continued on page 19)

Stanley Fadziewicz of Cromwell, CT, and Jeannine Boutin of Newington, CT., to Jeannine Boutin and Dory Redman of Newington, CT., Mohawk Estates, Lot 10. \$1.00

H.T. Associates, by partners, Daniel Cedrone of Rowe, Robert W. Dobek of East Longmeadow, and Kenneth G. Horr of Rowe, partners, to Kenneth G. and Ruth M. Horr of Rowe, 228 Number Nine Road, land also in Rowe. \$1.00.

Louise LaMontagne of Southington, CT, to Stanley Fadziewicz, 36 Cascade Drive. \$7,000.

Gerard A. Ledoux of Agawam to Anthony J. Wolf and Gloria Lederer of Chicopee, 10 Waterfall Drive. \$1.00.

James J. Levens of East Northport, NY, to James J. and Connie M. Levens of East Northport, NY, 221A Number Nine Road. No consideration.

Robert T. and Arlene G. Markert to Robert T. Markert, Hosmer Road, 80 acres. No consideration.

David H. and Rosemary D. McKinnon by Chittenden Trust Co., Bank of Western Massachusetts, by Assignee and Mortgage Service Center of New England, Assignee, to Chittenden Trust Co. of Burlington, VT, 16 West Main St. \$50,000.

Jeffery J. Murdock of Colrain, to Jeffery J. and Marcelene L. Murdock, 21 West Branch Road. \$1.00.

Peter G. and Susan M. Smith of Colrain, to Michael D. and Crystal A. Smith of Heath, Sadoga Road. \$20,000.

Robert L. and Marian Spritzer by EMC Mortgage Corp. of Irving, TX, to EMC Mortgage Corp., 32 Deer Run Path. \$80,750.

Eric E. Sumner to Kevin D. Parsons of Shelburne, Sumner Stetson Road, 58.09 acres, three parcels. No consideration.

Town of Heath, to Margo A. Newton, 36 Colrain Brook Road. \$474.

Town of Heath, to Daniel M. and Lisa M. Rock of Wallingford, CT, 37 Cascade Drive. \$471.

Town of Heath, to Dennis L. Kratt, 69 Chickasaw Street. \$512.

Town of Heath, to Daniel M. and Lisa M. Rock of Wallingford, CT, 35 Cascade Drive. \$1,193.

Heath People in the News

**Diane Stowe's response to our request for information about her life since graduation:*

After graduating from Mohawk in 1983, I attended Bay Path Junior College in Longmeadow, MA. I graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1985. My first full-time employment after college was as Secretary to the Assistant Director of College Recruiting at the Travelers Insurance Company in Hartford, CT. I spent three and a half years there, then accepted the position of Secretary/receptionist for Consulting Environmental Engineers, Inc. in West Hartford. In 1990, I was promoted to Executive Secretary to the President, a position which I still hold.

Some of my interests include horseback riding, cooking, needlecrafts, reading, gardening, genealogical research, and music. My boyfriend, Bill Drouin, and I enjoy returning home to Heath on the weekends to engage in these hobbies.

Jesse Porter-Henry graduated this spring from Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO. His field of study was geology. In addition to receiving several awards for

his work in the Geology Department, Jesse was offered the job of teaching assistant in the department for the coming year. After spending the summer in Heath, he will return to Colorado Springs where he will have the opportunity to both teach and do laboratory work with undergraduates. He will also be in charge of organizing and leading many of the expeditions the study of geology requires. Before heading back to Colorado, Jesse is planning a wilderness, kayaking trip in Manitoba, Canada.

The Northeast Foundation for Children is pleased to announce the publication of *Rules In Schools* coauthored by Heath School teacher **Deborah Porter**. The book is written for classroom teachers as an approach to classroom management that helps students become invested in creating and living by the classroom rules. *Rules in Schools* is part of a series of books about strategies for teachers using a method of teaching called the *Responsive Classroom*. The *Responsive Classroom* approach promotes high standards for both academic and social learning. As Deborah wrote, “Just as we teach children to read so that they might be able to participate in a literate world when they are grown, so too, must we teach children to care for themselves and others so that they might later participate in a democratic society.”

If you are interested in ordering a copy of *Rules In Schools*, you can call 1-800-360-6332, ext 151, or go on-line to www.responsiveclassroom.org.

Laurie Wheeler Burrington is currently in Mexico for six weeks studying Spanish in order to fulfill her college language requirement. She then plans to tour and study in Arizona and New Mexico before returning to complete her senior year at Mount Holyoke College.

David Smead, son of Veronica and Mike Smead, graduated in May from Greenfield Community College. He will continue his studies at the University of Massachusetts in the fall.

Mary Lemelin, a 2003 Mohawk graduate, will attend Framingham State College, Framingham, MA, and will be enrolled in the Honors Program.

Sarah Wodin-Schwartz, also a Mohawk graduate of this year, will attend Smith College, Northampton, MA, where she plans to study engineering. She intends to apply her knowledge to the fields of automotive technologies combined with alternative energies.

Mohawk graduate **Carly Nartowicz** will attend Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT, and plans to major in Public Relations.

(“Heath Happenings 20 Years Ago” continued from page 4)

Births -

Matthew Robert Crowningshield, Olivia Pearl Judd (great-granddaughter of Grace Landstrom), David Nathaniel Purkis

Marriage -

Edith Miller and Richard Sweet

Deaths -

Rosalie Rainville, mother of Delores Churchill

Francis P. Gallipo, father of Teresa Peters

Briefs -

Robert McAfee Brown's new book, *Elie Wiesel, Messenger to All Humanity*; Todd Sumner acts in *The Fantasticks*; Nicole Fogarty qualifies in the Junior Olympics; William Wolf speaker at Rowe Historical Society's 25th Anniversary; Rachel and Ralph Sumner's and Ruth and Ron Corey's 8000-mile auto trip to British Columbia and northwest USA.

Heath Emergency Services News

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

5/20/03 - Rt. 8A North - Medical
 5/22/03 - Rt. 8A North - Medical
 6/22/03 - Mohawk Beach Drive - Medical
 6/30/03 - Long Hill Road - Medical
 7/05/03 - Avery Brook Road - Medical

In the past two months Heath has received three new defibrillators from Public Safety grants. There is now one in the north, east, and west parts of town, as well as one in the center and one at the fire station.

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

~ Timothy Lively, EMT

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