



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

\$1.00

Volume 26, Number 3

August/September 2004

THE HEATH FAIR



2004

August 19, 20, 21 & 22

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19

- Exhibits accepted between 4 and 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.

- Exhibition Hall opens 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- Pony Pull - 5 p.m.
- Trailer Park - Come party with one of the best bands for dancing in the valley
- Awesome Fireworks (rain date Saturday)
- Midway, Rides, Concession 5:00 p.m. - 11 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 8:30 a.m. - midnight

- Rabbit Show - 9 a.m.
- Adult Sheep Show - 10 a.m.
- Exhibition Hall open to public - 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Adult Cattle Show - 11 a.m.
- Horse Draw - 11 a.m.
- Shay's Rebellion, traditional Celtic music - 11 a.m.
- Firemen's Excellent Chicken Barbecue - 12 noon
- Maple Ridge, traditional bluegrass at its best - 2 p.m.
- North County Line Dancers - 5 p.m.
- Square Dance in Cattle Barn - 8 p.m. - midnight
- Midway, Concessions, Rides - 8:30 a.m. to midnight

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22 - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- Gymkhana Exhibition of Contests on Horseback - 8 a.m.
- Exhibition Hall Open to Public - 10 a.m. - 4 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
- Parade - 1 p.m. (Theme: friendship)
- Rhubarb Pie, traditional contradanse style music - 1:30 p.m.
- Scything demonstration (Soloman Temple Barn) - 2 p.m.
- Midway, Concessions, Rides - 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Rides provided by D & L Amusements
ENTERTAINMENT ALL UNDER TENT COVER
RAIN OR SHINE

Heath Herald

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Copy Editor

Typographer

Business Manager

Advertising & Circulation

Coordinator

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Robin Jenkins, Val Kaempfer, Timothy Lively,

Deborah Phillips, The Selectboard,

Kathy Stein, Jane Wegscheider, Bonnie Wodin,

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

THE HERALD DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER ISSUE IS September 10, 2004. Photographs, drawings, and articles are the property of the Heath Herald unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Call (413) 337-8594 or E-mail Jane at jdeleeu@crocker.com.

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Church News

By Hilma Sumner, Minister

A landmark in the history of our church was reached in mid-June when the bathrooms were completed. For the first time we have indoor plumbing! Next on the list for our building project is to install the dropped ceiling and flooring in the main hall. Thanks to a gift from the Dickinson Fund for Historic Heath, the church will be able to purchase a stove, convection oven, oven hood, and stainless steel sinks.

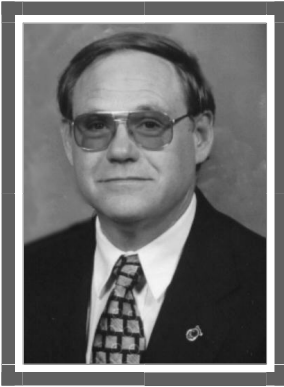
The church is preparing for its two biggest fund-raisers of the year: the Yankee Beemer weekend and our booth at the fair. All proceeds from these two events go towards our building project. Although both of these weekends require a lot of preparation and work for us all, it is also a time of deepening the friendship and fellowship we share with each other.

This year at the fair we will be offering chili and corn chowder as well as meatball, eggplant, and sausage grinders. For folks with a sweet tooth there will be cookies, brownies, and blueberry cake for sale. We will also have cold drinks. Besides the food, the church will also be selling its T-shirts, "God Loves Us Heathens," and the new mugs with a picture of the church inscribed on them. Raffle tickets will be available for anyone wanting to take a chance to win one of five Heath-crafted items. While at the Fair, stop by our booth and sample our wares.

Please join our worship service on the Sunday morning of the Fair at 9:30 a.m. under the big tent. It is always a special experience to express our gratitude to the Creator while hearing some of the sounds of creation that we don't usually hear in church like the bleating of sheep and the lowing of cattle in the barns.



Reed and Bruce Phillips enjoy reading *The Heath Herald* aboard a fishing boat in Cook Inlet, Alaska, in late June.



In Memoriam

Lorin Stanley Gowdy
1950 - 2004

With the passing of Lorin Gowdy, Heath has lost one of its most devoted, energetic, creative public servants and a great neighbor and friend. Over his many years in Heath, townspeople have known him in his most prominent role as police chief. More of us than can be counted also knew him as a generous neighbor, a wickedly funny friend, the quiet doer of private good deeds, a keen motorcyclist, the guy who could fix most anything, a first-rate shot with any gun, and a determined, sometimes feisty, man with a deep, strongly grounded sense of right and wrong. If it was an important issue, then it was worth arguing about and fighting for. If it was something fun or funny, then it was worth laughing about and carrying on in grand style maybe even setting off some backyard fireworks!

Some of us knew him as a furniture maker. Many a fine sit has been had by people across the country who are lucky enough to own one of Lorin's classic Adirondack chairs and even luckier if they have won one in a raffle for some good Heath cause. Others of us knew him as a blueberry farmer, working up on beautiful Burnt Hill with the Schribers. He said this year would be a really fine berry crop, even though he didn't live to enjoy this harvest of his labors, dying way too young. Back before his recent work, he was head of security for Yankee Rowe, writing down and setting the standard for nuclear power plant security; and then practicing it with his workforce including occasional night sneak-ups to test his staff's readiness.

Lorin was a world-class talker, as the ever-patiently-waiting Margo knows! It was typical to see him chatting out in front of the town hall with one after another of a string of folks coming to get their mail, or leaning into the window of a pickup to ask how someone with health troubles was doing. Or he might be found at the transfer station, doing more talking than tipping.

Perhaps the Heath Fair was the best place to see him in action. Of course, there would be the grand parade entrance, led by Chief Gowdy on his motorcycle. More you might spot him doing that thankless job for the Agricultural Society of emptying the trash barrels along the midway. And then there was the strolling around, keeping a Chiefly-watchful eye on frisky kids with bikes; chatting with clusters of Heath families and that bench-bunch of old-timers and then some visitors; or talking with Eileen, Jane, and other Historical Society volunteers near the Solomon Temple barn; checking in with Carroll Stowe during a scything demonstration; proudly pointing out the mural on the grandstand; and then, way late, directing the traffic, going home into the starry August night after a great fireworks show.

We weren't deceived by Lorin's 'I'm just a country guy' demeanor, though he was that in the finest sense of those solid words. He kept up lively e-mail correspondences with scores of people from all walks of life, and from all over the U.S. - family members, professors and authors, fellow Triumph sports car enthusiasts, folks from the National Academy of Sciences, city slickers, energy people, detectives and police officers from New York City to tiny towns, and more. That gave him fuel for all his world-class talking!

Chief Gowdy was greatly respected and admired by his police peers. He was instrumental in bringing the enlightened concept of community policing to rural western Massachusetts when most folks thought that was just for tough, big city neighborhoods intimidated by gangs. He was way ahead of the curve when he saw that this way of policing was a positive cohesive force to help communities be healthy, by nurturing commitment to the community and its children. The bad guys knew him as the police officer who could, and did, get his man; and the kids who lunched with him at the Heath School knew him as the policeman who really was their friend. He taught scores of cops state-of-the-art police practices, from shooting to how to talk instead of shoot, how to be ready for the unexpected turn of events, ways to question and listen, how to observe and then act. This was one of his consummate skills.

Let's be good to each other, in Lorin's spirit and positive energy, in his sense of community, and in his memory.

~ Kathy Stein





Little Fair in the Oak Trees

By Ken and Grace Crowningshield

First printed in the *Herald* in August, 1979.

Many years ago as kids there were two things we always looked for - school vacation and the Heath Fair. It was more of an old home day then. Most all of the exhibitors were from Heath. The balloon man had to sell his birdie-on-a-stick and balloons on the town highway because he didn't come from Heath. The premium money was very little then. As we grew up, many of us went into the service of our country. When we came home, it was still the little fair in the Oak Trees.

Then in 1962, Mrs. Carol Malone offered to sell the present fair grounds at a very reasonable price. So it was decided to pick up the building and move. The concession stand was jacked up and two farm

wagons rolled underneath it. We let it down onto them and we were off up the road to the Malone property. It was a slow process but everything got there in good shape. Once there it was unloaded and set up ready for business. With a place to eat we now had to have an exhibit hall. With donations of money, nails, lumber, and lots of free labor, it wasn't long before we had the exhibit hall. Next came a driven well and bathrooms which improved things a whole lot!

We were still a one-day fair then, so the State said if you want more premium money you must have the fair on Friday also. Most of the older generation had a fit. The middle generation said it was a good idea to have a little progress. The younger generation loved the idea.

With the extra time and a little more premium money (\$400) we drew more exhibitors and needed a new exhibit hall. That's when the State gave us \$10,000 from the Agricultural Purpose Fund for the big blue Hall.

More cattle showed up so rather than have them stand in the sun all day we applied for a barn 30' x 130', and the State allowed \$8000 for that.

A pair of ponies ran away down at the horse pulling pit so next we applied for and got a chain link fence to put around it at \$1800 more of State money.

We still needed more premium money but the State said "3 days or no more money." So now we are classified as a Major Fair and our premium money is up to \$3500.

With the extra exhibit money we attracted a lot of people with sheep. We applied for money for a sheep barn 20' x 120' The State gave us \$8900 for that. We had been having six or eight entries of sheep. With the new barn we had over 130 entries the first year.

The cattle and sheep people were fairly well taken care of, but now the horse and ox pulling people wanted a roof over their heads. So last year we put up a building for them at a cost of \$6700. The State gave us \$4000 towards it.

One more building has been applied for that will be for rabbits, chickens, and other small stock.

Through the years people have made contributions for the use of the grounds and the big blue hall for picnics, wedding receptions, and reunions. The grounds are open to anyone by appointment.

In just a few years we've come from the little fair in the oak trees with an attendance of 500—600 people to a major 3-day fair with an attendance of 8000 or better. It's still a country fair with fun for all - not much shade yet but a lot of fresh air. So why not come to see us this year, August 17th, 18th, & 19th.

The donkeys will be back plus cattle, sheep, and all. We hope the exhibit hall will be full. Saturday there will be a chicken barbecue and horse pulling. Sunday is Oxen Day with ox drawing, a parade, and the fire companies annual water fights. This year something new has been added. The Fiddlers are going to have a fiddling contest on Sunday from 2 PM on through the evening. A baked bean and hotdog supper is also scheduled for Sunday at 6 PM. Saturday at 8 PM there is a square dance at the grounds until 12.

So, after reading this, you had better join us at the Fair and bring a friend.



Photo by Grace Crowningshield

A Course and a Particular History

May 17 to 25 I traveled in Europe with seven students from the University of Hartford. They were students from the Philosophy, Literature, and Music programs. The trip was part of a course on Goethe and Nietzsche, who were literary and philosophical figures from the 19th century. Although writing on a variety of themes in mostly differing genres, these thinkers were interested in the dynamics of the human will and how human beings can create themselves. To learn more about these figures we visited a small city called Wetzlar, where Goethe lived early in his career, and which is the setting for his first novella, *The Sorrows of Young Werther*. The house of one of the main characters of this work, "Lotte," is a museum and it is filled with her things and with numerous editions of this book in a vast variety of languages. My students and I enjoyed connecting the story with settings, buildings, and personal artifacts.

From Wetzlar we went to Weimar where Goethe lived and wrote for over forty years. He was employed in this small city by the Duke of Weimar who was a significant patron of arts and letters. We visited Goethe's house, which is furnished with his personal effects such that it remains very much like the time in which he lived in this dwelling.

From Weimar we traveled to Heidelberg, Stuttgart, Freiburg, and Karlsruhe. We also visited Basel in Switzerland where Nietzsche lectured on philology. In each city, we discussed the philosophers, theologians, and literary figures who lived and wrote in these environs. The students asked wonderful questions, and I think we all learned a great deal.

While at Weimar we visited Buchenwald, one of the infamous concentration camps of the Nazi era. The name of the camp is literally "forest of beeches." I had been there before and merely suggested this as part of our itinerary. The students nearly to the person wanted to see this place with its history of horror and death. Observing the camp with its barbed wire, cells, foundations of prisoner barracks, and remnants of ovens brought back to my mind many things I had read, in particular the statements of Holocaust survivors. One such description was shared with me by a man who published my first book, *Language and Creativity*. He is Peter de Ridder of Lisse in the Netherlands. During our first meeting, Peter took me to lunch in The Hague and we discussed many things including trends in Linguistics, research in the field of Philosophy of Language and some family histories. I asked him how he got into the publishing business. He replied, with a wry smile, "via a concentration camp in Germany." I urged him to explain.

Peter, like many young men from occupied countries in Europe, was sent against his will to work as a forced laborer in Germany. His place of work was in the Krupp foundries, central to the war machine of the Wehrmacht. Peter worked alongside Jews, Gypsies, Socialists, and dissidents of every kind. A few days after his arrival he was working next to a Jewish man, feeding a cauldron of molten steel. Krupp literally worked his slaves to death. Anyone who was not working hard enough was beaten.

This was the misfortune of the man next to Peter. The guard started to beat this famished and direly weakened man. Peter is a stout man built like a fullback or a wrestler. Unable to tolerate the brutality next to him, he grabbed the guard and threw him into the fire. The next day Peter found himself in a boxcar headed for Buchenwald. The car was jammed full of men who were standing, eventually holding each other up off the filth of the floor. They knew from the orders given by Krupp that they were going to Buchenwald to die, not to work. Through conversations in many languages and many translations, a pact was made to make a run for it as soon as the doors opened. Some of the strongest men volunteered each to take out a guard near the car if they could do so. Peter and his fated, newly found friends stormed out the car. Peter smashed a guard into the side of the boxcar and ran for it. He estimated that approximately 160 men tried to make this escape. Peter is one of two known survivors. He recalled running the entire first day, only stopping to sleep when he no longer could hear dogs barking or the SS thrashing through the woods after him. Peter traveled by night on foot for a number of weeks, always heading west when conditions permitted. After many days, he, without knowing it, crossed the border into Belgium. Starving, too weak to travel much further, he quietly entered a village in the early morning. He saw one shop with a light on and softly knocked on the door. A man opened the door, looked at him, and quickly pulled him inside. Peter regarded him carefully and made an intuitive judgment. He told his new acquaintance everything including where he had come from. The shop owner informed him that he employed prisoners and that Peter should pretend to be one of them.

Peter's protector was a printer and a publisher and he worked for him from 1943 to the end of the war in 1945. He learned his trade from a Belgian man who risked everything to keep a young Dutchman alive. I described this very particular history to my students while standing on the landing where Peter made the dash to death or to the unlikely prospect of survival. We then walked the 300 yards to the gates of the camp and went inside.

History and learning are often about place. I am happy that Goethe's and Lotte's houses are well preserved. Even more important, since history is often rewritten for political purposes, the death camp sites and facilities should never be erased from the European landscape or from our collective and individual memories. Krupp, at the Nuremberg trials, when questioned about all the people worked to death at his factories and foundries, said of his slaves, "They were not human, they were merely 'Stocke,' i.e., cattle."

Each time I come to a growth of beeches in the forests of Heath and Rowe I think of the trees and the woods that shrouded the first minutes of Peter's escape. It is one way that I look up into the hills and remember "from whence cometh our help."

~ Buck den Ouden
North Heath, MA





Wild Ramblings

A Not So Real Hornet's Nest

By Bill Lattrell

Never have I felt more alive than as a young boy on summer vacation from school. My world seemed endless; the summer always too short to fully explore all possibilities. So it was on one hot August day during the summer of my 12th year.

There was a path through the woods that ran along the edge of a blueberry swamp that I traveled everyday on the way to my best friend's house. The swamp was always a great place to explore, full of endless paths and tunnels winding under branches of highbush blueberry bushes perched on elevated island hummocks. The paths were lined with cool, wet, peat moss that was emerald green in the summer and ruby red in the autumn. The moist peat moss held the cool water that soaked your hands and knees while crawling through the swamp byways. This was a favorite retreat from the summer heat.

The heat and humidity that day were downright oppressive. Only nine in the morning and the air was as thick as molasses. I was running a bit early for my friend's late sleeping patterns, so I decided to explore a section of the swamp that I had not ventured into that summer.

The first forty of fifty feet into the swamp I could hop from tussock to tussock, but as I approached the blueberry hummocks I had to resort to crawling on my hands and knees. My PF Flyer sneakers were already soaked. I could feel the water between the toes of my sockless feet. The cool peat moss soaking my hands and legs was a welcome relief. I envisioned that look that my mother would give me later that day when she saw my green stained legs and soaked clothes. She had long since given up trying to keep me from this forbidden haven.

About 200 yards into the swamp I spotted a red maple tree. I decided that would be a good place to relax and bide the time until my friend was available to explore the world with me. Upon approaching the tree I could see a large bald-faced hornet's nest, about twelve feet off the ground. The pear-shaped nest was quite inactive. I watched the nest for about five minutes and saw no hornets either entering or exiting the paper globe.

The bald-faced hornet, also known as the white-faced hornet, is really not a hornet at all but a member of the yellow jacket family which means it is truly a wasp. These fascinating creatures build "paper" nests made of chewed wood

pulp. The female workers gather wood from sticks without bark with their mouths. They turn this wood into a paste by combining the wood with a saliva-like excretion that softens the wood. The paste-like pulp is then excreted by the worker and woven into layers that form the nest. These nests can be 18 inches wide and up to two feet in length. They can house 700-800 individual bald-faced hornets by autumn.

Like most wasps, the white-faced hornet lives in organized colonies that have a fertile queen, fertile drones, and infertile female workers. The queen, or foundress as she is often referred to, is the mother of the entire colony. The foundress lays her eggs in hexagonal shaped cells where the larvae remain until they hatch in about 20 days. In the autumn the young workers nest in the ground and underneath thick layers of detritus. The fertile queen, drones, and older workers perish. In the spring the female workers and a few fertile drones emerge. The workers build a new nest, one will become fertile, mate with a drone, and a new colony begins.

White-faced hornets are predacious, eating other insects and are especially fond of other yellow jackets. They will often invade the carcass of a dead animal, hide beneath the rib cage of the decaying animal and wait for yellow jackets to appear to feed off the rotting meat. They then attack the yellow jackets, snip off the head and consume their prey. The white-faced hornet enjoys nectar from flowers and fruit as well, and can often be seen drinking from the mouth of an open flower.

Their strongest and best known trait is the ferocity with which they defend their nests. Wasps can issue multiple stings. Their venom is very painful since it is directed at attacking the nervous system. Pain should not be confused with toxicity, however. The sting of a honeybee is far more toxic even though it is less painful.

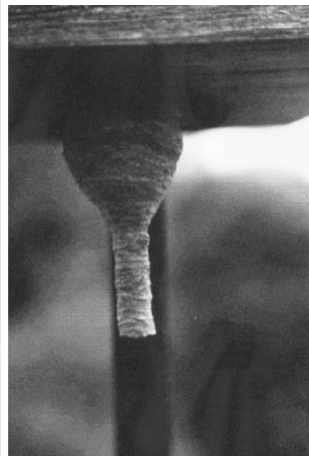
Being a boy of twelve seeking adventure, I decided that it would be a good idea to stir things up a bit. After all, what good was an inactive hornet's nest. A nearby stick, about eight inches in length and weighing about a pound would be my weapon. I found what I thought was a reasonable escape route, a narrow tunnel heading more or less for dry country to the east.

I remember watching the stick sail through the air, tumbling end over end. Never was a more perfect throw aimed so well. The heavy wet stick struck the nest dead on, bashing in the side of the light gray papier mâché wall. Instantly, and I do mean instantly, several hundred bald-faced hornets swarmed in my direction. I'll never know exactly how they knew my precise location, but the fact is that they flew directly towards me as though I had been on their radar screen well before I tossed the stick.

I tripped, fell over, and scurried for my escape route. Surely they could not follow me through the thick brush. I entered the tunnel, bald-faced hornets only moments behind. The first ten yards were promising: thick brush, a narrow passage, lots of corners, and then, oh my god, a dead end.

The hornets had no mercy. My plan had failed and their defense succeeded. As I crashed through the thick high-bush blueberry thickets that slowed me to a crawl I was stung repeatedly. Over and over again I tried to brush the hornets off only to find dozens more attacking me relentlessly. My only escape was to continue pounding through the brush in search of the upland trail.

(*"A Not So Real Hornet's Nest"* continued on page 7)



Early stage of nest.

Selectboard's Report

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

Lorin Gowdy - The Board mourns the loss of Lorin Gowdy who passed away at home on Tuesday, July 20, 2004. Lorin served the Town of Heath as its police chief for 17 years. He was instrumental in bringing more than \$90,000 in Community Policing, Dare, and other grants to the Town. Lorin was active in the Heath Elementary School in managing many of the grants he secured for youth programs there. He was a fixture at the Heath Fair and will be sorely missed this year as the fair rapidly approaches. We extend our sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

Summer Schedule - The Board will continue to meet every other Monday (8/9, 8/23) until the Labor Day holiday. The customary meeting time of Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. will resume after that.

Community Hall - Much progress has been made on the Community Hall renovations. The foundation work is nearly complete, the roof has been stripped and resingled, siding repairs are underway, and the exterior painting is about to begin.

Special Town Meeting - A Special Town Meeting was held on Saturday, June 26, to transfer funds from various accounts with surpluses to accounts with deficits. All articles passed unanimously.

Annual Town Meeting Continuation - The Annual Town Meeting was reconvened on Saturday, June 26, to consider the financial articles including Article 3, the FY05 town budget. The budget was approved with minor modifications to line items. An article to appropriate funds for the purchase of a new highway department dump truck was also approved. Mohawk Superintendent Alan Genovese attended the meeting to report on the status of the Mohawk budget and answer questions regarding Heath Elementary School.

Town Coordinator - Sadly we announce the resignation of our Town Coordinator Becky Jurek who is leaving us for a similar position with the Town of Bernardston. Becky has been a fast learner and a dedicated, enthusiastic worker. Her ability to accommodate the many and often conflicting demands of her position has been a marvel. The Board greatly appreciates all she has done for us and the Town over the past three years or more. We wish her the best in her future endeavors.

Conservation Commission Appointments - Bill Lattrell and Rol Hesselbart have resigned from the Conservation Commission. Bill has served on the Conservation Commission since it was first formed back in 1986. He was the chair of the commission for most of the eighteen years he served. As a professional wetlands scientist he brought invaluable skill and knowledge to the commission in the execution of its business. Outside of regular meetings and site visits, Bill met with town residents at all hours of the day and night to try to help people understand the law and its applicability with regard to their particular building and sitework projects. He was always accommodating in providing guidance and suggestions to help solve problems. His contributions will be missed.

Rol has been on the commission since 1997. As a former Park

Ranger and member of the Deerfield Watershed Association he also brought environmental skills and awareness to the work of the commission. We would like to extend our gratitude for the good work and dedication both of them have afforded the Town.

With these two resignations the remaining three members must attend each meeting to have a quorum and conduct business. The Selectboard is seeking to appoint two new members as soon as possible. Anyone who would be interested in serving should contact the Town Coord...Wait a minute! She's gone too.) Just leave a message, 337-4934. Someone will get back to you.

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 Selectboard 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

Academy Awards

Several Heath children received honors and awards at closing ceremonies of the Academy At Charlemont. Sarah Hartshorne, graduating from 11th grade, made honor roll and received two prestigious awards - the Honor Council Award and the Mount Holyoke Book Club Award. Ruth Ayers and Grace Phillips, both from the 9th grade class, were on the honor roll as well as Devon Ingraham-Adie from 8th grade. Reed Phillips from the 7th grade was awarded the honor of Outstanding Athlete in the lower school - 7th and 8th grades.

Congratulations to them all.

~ *Deborah Phillips*

("A Not So Real Hornet's Nest" continued from page 6)

It was distance that stopped their assault. Once I had cleared about a hundred yards of brush, the hornets no longer pursued me. I was as scratched and scraped from my escape route through the thicket as I was stung from the bald-faced hornets. Wildly uncomfortable, I headed home once I located the upland trail. I knew that the real adventure was about to begin as I returned home to the "stings" I was about to receive from my mother's unsympathetic eyes.

NOTICE

The Heath Board of Health instituted private well regulations effective June 1, 2004. Copies of these regulations are available for your review or purchase at the town hall.



Library Lines

Volunteers Welcome



By Charlene Churchill

The library staff is always working on various projects at the library. Volunteers can do some of these projects or volunteers can assist Don or myself with them. Volunteering at the library does not have to mean a big commitment of time. Volunteering for two hours per week can mean a big difference in getting projects completed.

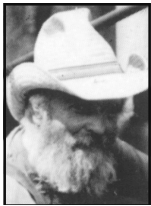
Volunteers can also cover the circulation desk or help re-shelve materials that have been returned. This frees up staff to work on projects. The Bookmobile visits us every eleven weeks, and we sometimes need extra hands to help carry materials in and out of the library.

We are also looking for one or two high school students who would like to help at the library for their public service work. Hours are flexible. We are open on Saturdays and two evenings each week.

Libraries are great places to meet your neighbors and ours is no exception. If you are interested in finding out more about volunteer opportunities at our library, please contact me at the library.

New Books: *10 Big Ones* by Janet Evanovich, *Lazybones* by Mark Billingham, *Rule of 4* by Ian Caldwell, *Nighttime Is My Time* by Mary Higgins Clark, *Narrows* by Michael Connelly, *The Summer I Dared* by Barbara Delinsky, *The Body of Jonah* by David Leavitt, and *Between Two Rivers* by Nicholas Rinaldi.

Books On Tape: *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd, *The DaVinci Code* by Dan Brown, *Tears of the Giraffe* and *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith, *Home to Harmony* by Philip Gulley, and *Words of Silk* by Sandra Brown.



The Way It Is In The Country

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

Horses Put Out of Business by Tractor

By Carroll Stowe

At a point in time of the mid 1940s, the Stowe farm felt the need of a second tractor. Our acreage had an area of good, clear hemlock trees not too distant from the barn and house. I must comment that the winter that I cut the logs that could be sold to buy this second tractor was a most satisfying winter spent. Never did I feel that I was depriving the farm of a good, working team. I was able to spend time cutting logs and hauling them to a roadside loading area plus keeping the manure pit clean, and the farm's sawdust hauled.

We had recently purchased a new chain saw, a model 33 McColluch saw. This was a good saw but a gear-drive model. The trees were cut and measured for length and cut 8, 10, and 12 feet and were skidded to a small, loading skidway.

I've had the privilege of having known and worked with some great skid horses, a very satisfying work to have the help of a great helper in the form of such an animal. Nothing about this type of job could be done better with a tractor. What great satisfaction comes as logs can be made ready to load on the wood-shod sled and to be able to put the team of horses on to the business end of such a sled and feel the power and eagerness of that good team out ahead of you just happy to be where they are.

There was some snow that winter so a runner chain was used some to hold the sled some and I never felt I was overloading the team but a neighbor suggested that maybe I'd better not load so heavily. If a pole strap should break I could be in trouble. I probably did, at the neighbor's suggestion, haul a bit less load.

Looking back at the time I got out these logs, I figure some five to six hundred feet of logs would be brought to the roadside area daily. It was a great feeling to watch how the log pile grew a bit each day. The total footage of this job was a bit in excess of 10,000 board feet.

There was enough from the sale of these logs to purchase a second H Farmall. This tractor was very serviceable but not in the condition of our original H tractor. With the addition of this tractor the horses were used less and less. It is so much easier to push a starter switch than to throw a harness onto a team. So essentially our last team put themselves out of work by working hard to help us buy a second farm tractor.



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"This publication is supported in part by a grant from the Heath Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency."

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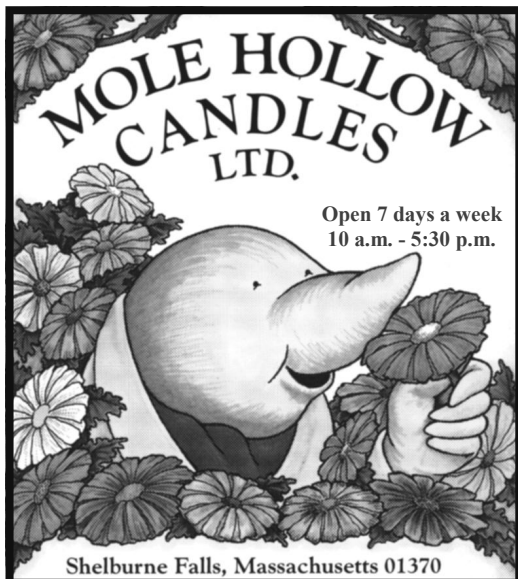
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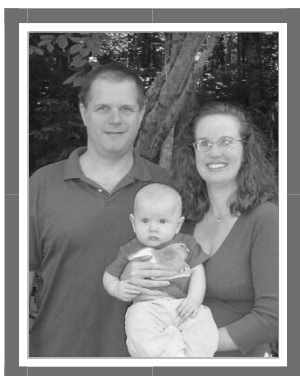
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New Neighbors

Jeffrey and Jenna Simmons

Many people find their way to Heath through their friends. First one comes, and then the others. But times are changing. The electronic cottage is everywhere. When Jeffrey and Jenna Simmons decided to leave the Methuen area they turned

to the Internet to find affordable housing in a congenial town.

In November of 2002 they moved to Navaho Lane and got a real Heath welcome, a snowstorm. They unloaded their truck in the snow and began their first and very snowy Heath winter.

Snow aside, Heath gave Jeffrey the opportunity to fulfill a childhood fantasy; he was on the phone to Mike Smith even before they moved to express his interest in joining the Volunteer Fire Department I personally was grateful for his help when he showed up with the fire department to put out the grass fire we had in May.

He also brought his professional expertise with him. Jeffrey is a paramedic and continues to work two 24-hour shifts for his company in the east and spends the rest of his time in Heath. As a paramedic and volunteer fireman he has responded to medical calls here in town. While many little boys dream of becoming firemen, most do not dream of joining the FinCom. Jeffrey is now also a member of the Finance Committee and the Mohawk Estates Board. "We live in a democracy," he said. "When you live in a small town you have to step up to do your part."

Jenna works two night shifts a week as a nurse at Franklin Medical Center when Jeffrey is home. She is also busy with young Dennis Allen who was three months old in early July. When asked if Heath was what they expected she laughed and said it was what she expected. "I was born in Oklahoma and my grandparents had a huge farm in Arkansas and I spent summers there. I knew what it was like to live in the country; I knew what I was in for. I love being here."

The whole family agrees that the town has been very welcoming. They joined the Heath Union Church and have found everyone very friendly.

Dennis Allen, named after Jenna's father, joined four older siblings. Ashley, 13, lives with her mother in Haverhill and attends school there, but spends weekends and part of the summer in Heath. She enjoys sports like cross-country skiing, basketball, cheerleading, and volleyball, and is hoping to learn to play guitar. She likes being near Papoose Lake and her father says she is a water rat.

Vivian at 16 has just gotten her learner's permit, and she will be a junior at Mohawk in the fall. Vivian likes being in a smaller school. She says its easier to get around and easy to make friends. She is already a member of the National Honor Society and the Select Chorus. Like her other siblings she is also athletic and is participating in a summer basketball league in Hatfield this summer.

Brandon is 14 and has been elected president of the freshman class at Mohawk. He is active in sports including baseball and football. He is also going into chorus with Vivian.

(*"New Neighbors"* continued on page 14)



Rays of Interest

Recipe for Partridge Stew

By Raymond Pettengill

This story took place back in about 1932 when my father was living and working on my grandfather's farm situated in Washington Plantation in Maine. The farm was a large one that had apple orchards, fields, and lots of woods. An uncle of mine who was my mother's brother also lived on the farm at this time and was about the same age as my father.

Keeping up with a farm of this size was time consuming and hard work but when deer season rolled around most of the men and some of the women took time off to go hunting. One day during deer season my uncle decided to spend a few days at a hunting cabin that had been built up in the woods a long distance from the main house while my father stayed behind to do chores. He invited my father to come up to the cabin in a couple of days to have some stew made from partridge meat that he was sure he would have by that time.

On the date set for the dinner my father made the trip up to the hunting cabin. He found my uncle at the stove stirring the stew in a large, black, cast-iron kettle. The wonderful aroma coming from the kettle was enough to set the saliva glands in his mouth to working. After my uncle had served up the stew and my father had eaten a couple of bowlsful my uncle asked him how he liked it. My father told him it was just about the best tasting partridge stew he had ever had. My uncle said that he had something to confess and told him that he had not seen a partridge since he started hunting but that the woodpeckers had been all over the place.

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The Book You Walk Through

Collaboration has the word 'labor' in it...unseen labor...all that "planning time"...brainstorming. . . ideas generated, shared, and given up so that something else can be born. And that's only the beginning. The labor of ideas and plans becomes the new labor of making...process...working through those ideas... and finding things out...new ideas...information. . .about ourselves, as well as the world around us. Eventually, there is a product: a poem, a drawing, a book, a performance, a garden, a school, a town...something that others can experience with their senses and imaginations. And the collaboration begins again, as viewer/reader/audience/visitor becomes participant...with their own ideas...

Ideas for 'The Book You Walk Through' were first developed in the Spring of 2003, when Heath School principal, Susan Todd, Writer-In-The-Schools (WITS) coordinator, Noy Holland, resident naturalist, Ted Watt, and I worked on a Mass-Cultural Council Creative Schools Grant proposal which focused on art, literacy, and the local community and environment. I was interested in creating an interactive public art piece. A giant book seemed like a great way to integrate form with content. The arts are a way of learning as well as a way of reflecting on what is being learned. The "Book" would be about us/our community...we would be writing and imaging our own 'story' while exploring the place we call home. The project also tied into the school's EIC goals, continued support for the WITS program, and extended the work we had done with the Heath Community Heritage Project.

After we received the grant, we began the work of making it a school-wide collaboration, a beneficial resource to classroom teachers, rather than an extra burden. We had a month of meetings dedicated to the task of integrating the project with what was already on the agenda for the year. This was some of the 'unseen labor' and one of the real benefits of the grant. Long before we began working with students, Ted and I (and later, WITS writer, Juliette Lee) worked together with classroom teachers to create plans for investigations that used the arts to integrate the required classroom curriculum standards with studies of the local community and local environment. Each individual teacher brought her or his own ideas, creativity, and teaching skills to the collaborative process along with an understanding of their students' needs and strengths. Each classroom, therefore, began with a unique plan, followed by an organic process that allowed for the wonderful twists and turns that are part of learning with children.

Each four-"page" grouping of panels (in the V-shape of an open book) is the result of many different investigations and exploratory processes. Suzanne Taylor's 1st and 2nd grade class studied maple sugaring. They learned the history, science, and legends of sugaring in the classroom. My job as artist was to figure out how to make all that information visual, so that it could be shared with others. We went to the 'Sugaring Off' Exhibit at the Clark Museum of Art with sketchbooks I had made for each student. They drew from the paintings and objects in the exhibit as well as from photographs in the many books about sugaring we had back at school. Together, we decided to illustrate the sugaring process as a cycle around a big maple tree. The kids learned how to transfer enlarged copies

of their drawings onto the primed wooden panels. After transferring their drawings, they painted them with acrylic paints. (Almost all of the Book's 24 panels were primed by their classmate, Stevie, and his aide Sandy Gilbert - a huge help for me and lots of fun for him.)

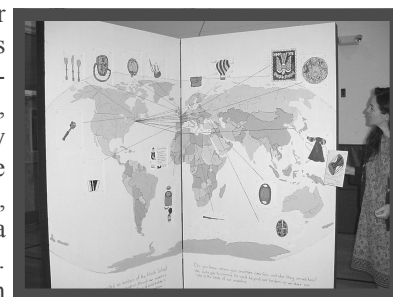
Meanwhile, we were also able to invite Bob Coombs (an expert on sugaring from Jacksonville, VT) and Ruth Johnson (who grew up sugaring here in Heath) to speak to the class in school. The 1st and 2nd graders prepared questions and interviewed Bob and Ruth. Bob brought some of his 1200 sugaring postcards to share, and Ruth brought homemade maple cookies. Ruth later wrote and shared her memories of sugaring as a girl. Ruth's memories seemed like a perfect authentic bit of history to include in the project. I thoroughly enjoyed painting her words onto one of the panels.

Jorie MacLeod's 3rd/4th grade class was studying early American history. As part of their study we joined Jack Cable and David Howland for a tour of the historical buildings in Heath's center. Students did drawings on site from the many artifacts they saw. They also did drawings from their research on the Internet. We decided to arrange their images in a kind of museum format in categories relating to school life, home life, and work life.

Stephen Bechtel's 4th/5th grade class focused on energy and the way the local topography affects the kinds of energy systems we have in the area. The study naturally gravitated to water power and mills, as well as to wind power. We visited MASS MOCA where the Kids Space exhibit focused on wind and on artists who use wind as an element in their work. We also had a tour of the rest of the museum in which our docent included an historical overview of the building's history as a mill site. On another more local field trip, Sheila Litchfield and Al Canali hosted the class for an in-depth tour of the Dell's mill history.

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Marilyn O'Brien's 6th grade class studied world geography throughout the year. For the Book project, students interviewed family members about their heritage, learning about the many places in the world we are connected to. As a group, the 6th graders painted a world map on two panels. It was clear how much they knew about their geography as they pointed out errors in the shape of this or that country. Each student chose a family heirloom or artifact to draw and write about. These words and images are painted onto recessed spaces on the panels that viewers can interact with. Painted lines connect the objects to the countries and then back to our part of the world.



(*"The Book You Walk Through"* continued on page 13)

(*"The Book You Walk Through"* continued from page 12)

Deb Porter's Kindergarten class did an in-depth study of vernal pools and the woodland environment. As part of their study, they made numerous trips to the Maitland forest as well as the woods around the school. They observed closely the many critters that they found. They learned about drawing from observation, and they drew from their imaginations. They also worked with clay to create a working fountain.

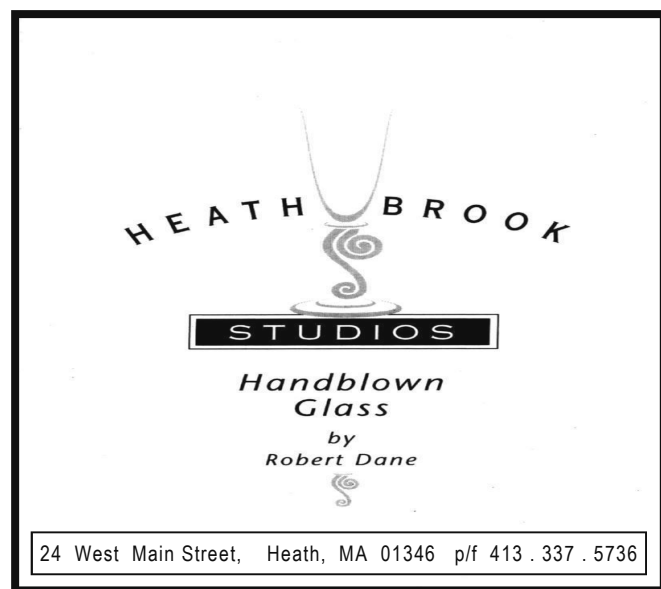
Suzanne Crawford's preschool class studied animal tracks and the way animals move with Ted Watt. They were also learning a lot about their own bodies. Suzanne, Ted, Juliette, and I were able to find numerous age-appropriate ways for the students to process their learning. They acted out the animals whose tracks they had seen. They talked about what it felt like to 'be' those animals. They painted beautiful abstract-expressionist backgrounds for their panels (two with a variety of skin colors, and two with a subtle variety of whites.) I traced their silhouettes which were later transferred to the skin-toned panels.

Another panel was created out of a collaboration between our Japanese intern Kensei Yamada and home-schooler Connor Steele-McCutchen. It began with Connor interviewing Kensei about WWII. Susan Todd encouraged Kensei and Connor to learn about the life and work of former Heath resident Charles Kades. We were able to distill a huge amount of information using a cartoon format.

Many parents, community members, and teachers spent hours helping to paint parts of the panels that didn't or couldn't get painted during school time. I am grateful beyond words for the persistent quality work and collaborative spirit of WITS writer, Juliette Lee, and parents, Janis Steele and Jaimye Ingraham.

The whole project (ideas, process, and product) reflects upon the richness of our community, and our enthusiasm for exploring it. *"The Book You Walk Through"* was exhibited in part at the RiverFest in Shelburne Falls in June. It can be viewed currently at the Heath School, and will be set up throughout the Heath fairgrounds during the Heath Fair. My hope is that you will enjoy it, learn from it, interact with it, and come away with lots of your own ideas.

~ Jane Wegscheider



Franklin County Land Trust Garden Tour, 2004

For an insider getting ready for the Franklin County Land Trust Garden Tour of 2004, the weeks of work that lay behind the bucolic scene claiming the eyes of appreciative visitors a few weekends back, have thankfully faded into a blur. What remains is the satisfaction of appreciation from visitors, friends, and family alike.

Thirteen gardens and/or working farms had been selected from the myriad of beautiful spots through our fair Heath and neighboring east Colrain for this year's tour. They had been chosen back in May when the gardening season was young and anything seemed possible. And then the rains of May stretched into the extreme dry of early June which transformed into the periodic downpours of late June and early July! What a lot we gardeners and farmers have to contend with! Would it EVER stop raining long enough to mow the lawns?

But contend we did, and Garden Tour Weekend dawned bright and miraculously dry!

Hordes of people crowded the sites which ranged from the northern most Grinnell household to the southernmost Calls' longtime family residence. There were spots of quiet elegance at The Manse; others of grandeur like Dave Gott's blueberry farm, now called The Benson Place; and others of simple reverence like the Betty Maitland forest walk, carefully stewarded by Alastair and Hazel, and Anne and Ray Hanson's venerable apple trees and Grandmother Maple in Her place of honor overlooking the park-like yard.

Neighbors who had been strangers came out to meet neighbors from the sheer joy and curiosity of finding out what really WAS going on behind that screen of trees! Garden ideas were shared by all. We gardeners really ARE a sharing lot, loving to pass along a new, or time proven tip.

It may be several years before the Garden Tour graces Heath once again, the Land Trust's protocol being that they focus on a different area of the county each year. But this 2004 tour will be long remembered both for the beauty of the gardens and farms, and also for the kindness of friends, old and new, who walked our lands, taking joy and comfort from the beauty they found.

~ Bonnie Wodin

Franklin Land Trust

The Franklin Land Trust has announced that longtime Heath summer resident Lucianna Ross has donated to the Land Trust an Agricultural Preservation Restriction on 177 acres on the eastern side of the Heath Fairgrounds.

The Land Trust has been working for years with the Heath Land Preservation Committee and Ms Ross to craft an APR to protect the field and forestland situated less than a mile from Heath Center.

This is the Land Trust's 14th project in Heath, preserving a total of 1,519 acres.



Heath Historical Society

April 14 was a special day for the Heath Historical Society as David Howland and I hosted the Heath Elementary School fifth grade class on a tour of the Center School and Old Town House.

Members of the class sketched artifacts in both buildings and have included these drawings on panels depicting Heath history. These panels will be exhibited at the Heath Fair. Look for them to see the talent and interest the Heath Elementary School children demonstrate.

Bring your children to the Heath Fair to see the panels and see for yourself the history of farm life by visiting our 1771 barn. This year we are celebrating the tenth anniversary of the moving and restoring of the barn. Also everyone is invited to the annual meeting of the Heath Historical Society on August 28 at the barn from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. We will be featuring a video of the barn's disassembly and restoration plus all those responsible for this magnificent undertaking will be on hand to discuss the project. This will be a potluck event so bring a dish to share.

Come and enjoy - bring the family. Join the society..... its your history.

~ Jack Cable
President

Heath Historical Society Annual Meeting, Potluck Supper and Raffle

The potluck supper will begin about 5 p.m. in the Exhibition Hall on the Heath Fairgrounds. You are asked to bring a potluck dish for eight, preferably cold items (since we have no way to keep things hot) such as cold cuts, salads, sandwiches, fruit, bread & butter, chips & dips, desserts, etc., as if for a picnic. Beverages and table settings will be provided.

Bring a friend - all are welcome!

The raffle's First Prize will be a gorgeous 100% wool, queen-size blanket! The sheep were raised by Norman and Martha Howland Rose on Rose Manor Farm in Peru, NY, and the blanket was woven by MacAusland's Woolen Mill in Bloomfield, Prince Edward Island, Canada. This luxuriously soft blanket is maroon with black trim and will be on display during the Heath Fair in the Solomon Temple Barn. The Second Prize will be a gift certificate to a local restaurant, and Third Prize will be a half-gallon of pure maple syrup. Tickets may be purchased at the Solomon Temple Barn during the Heath Fair, August 20 - 22 and will sell for \$1.00 each or seven tickets for \$5.00. The drawing will be held at our Annual Meeting on August 28. You do not need to be present to win.

~ Pegge Howland

("New Neighbors" continued from page 10)

Falina, 12, spent part of the summer with grandparents in Oklahoma. In the fall she will enter the Middle School where she is already cast in the Middle School musical. She plays flute and violin, but when she isn't practicing she is out on the playing fields for softball, basketball, and soccer.

The Simmons family talk about the friendliness of Heath, but it

must be noted that they have all jumped in feet first to take their places in service to the town and the school community.

~ Pat Leuchtman

Historical Commission Awarded Grant

The Heath Historical Commission has been awarded a grant of \$5000 by the Highland Communities Initiative. The Initiative is a program of the Trustees of Reservations, an organization dedicated to preservation of Massachusetts' cultural and ecological landscape.

The Historical Commission is currently completing a survey of the buildings in Heath's Town Center. The grant will make it possible to fund professional assistance in preparing and submitting an application to the National Register of Historic Places to designate the Town Center as a historic district. "We are very grateful to the Highland Communities Initiative for their generous support in preserving this important piece of Heath's heritage," said Delores Viarengo, Chair of the commission.

~ Eric Grinnell

You are cordially invited to attend

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Town Nurse Notes



Heat Stroke

By Joanne Fortune, RN

Heat stroke is caused by the body's inability to sweat in extreme heat. The body wants to stay at 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. When it's hot outside, in a car or a sunny room, the body normally sweats so evaporation will cool it down. If there isn't enough water in the body (dehydration), there won't be sweat. That increases internal temperature. Another cause of heat stroke is high humidity which keeps sweat from evaporating. If sweat can't evaporate, the body can't cool itself. When the core gets to 106 degrees, there is a serious problem that can be fatal in less than an hour. The scientists from the web site *Howstuffworks* did an experiment. They turned on the air conditioner in a car at 3:30 p.m. on a sunny, hot summer afternoon in Raleigh, NC. They waited until the interior of the car cooled to 75 degrees F. then they turned the engine off and within 15 minutes, the interior temperature of the car was 110 degrees F.

Symptoms of heat stroke include red, hot, dry skin and rapid heart rate. The redness is caused by blood vessel dilation, trying to release heat. Dizziness and confusion occur because extreme heat affects the brain.

Symptoms of dehydration include thirst, less-frequent urination, dry skin, fatigue, light-headedness, dizziness, confusion, increased heart rate, and respirations. In children, there can also be no tears when crying, no wet diapers for more than three hours, high fever, irritability, and skin that doesn't flatten when pinched and released.

It takes water to make sweat. The body can produce two liters of sweat every hour in the heat. If we don't drink water at the same rate, we will dehydrate and then stop sweating. Even if we don't feel thirsty, we need to drink. It's been said that by the time we feel thirsty, we are already dehydrated.

The only solution for heat stroke is to cool the person down. Get them inside or out of the sun, remove clothing, and gently apply cool water followed by fanning to stimulate sweating. If they're conscious, try to get them to drink water. Another cooling method is to apply ice packs to their head, neck, armpits, and groin.

Coffee is a diuretic and should not be considered a form of rehydration. We're fortunate that water is readily accessible at most gas stations and convenience stores. It's prudent to leave a couple bottles in your car.

I see people in their homes by appointment. If you or anyone you know would like a visit, please call me at 774-2958. Have a great time at the fair! Excuse me while I go get a big glass of water.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Town Meeting Bumps Up Against Tax Threshold

Continuation of the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) of May 8 on Saturday, June 26, lasted another three hours focusing mostly on the Town's obligations and its ability to pay for them. After waiting nearly a half hour for the quorum of 25 voters to appear, there was a very brief Special Town Meeting held just before 9 a.m. to approve four transfer-of-funds articles. But because it took another hour before the necessary 51 voters arrived to start the ATM, Moderator Doug Wilkins took advantage of the time delay to have Superintendent of Schools Alan Genovese explain the results of his promises of May 8 to reduce the school budget with increases in State funding for school busing and Special Education (SPED). He reported that busing costs for Heath for FY05 were actually recently reduced an additional \$12,326, but noted he and the School Committee retained 10% of Transportation Aid monies for reserve purposes. (This has not occurred before.) With regard to SPED the Superintendent said costs were running ahead of expectations and he did not believe it appropriate to further reduce District costs. (The FinCom will examine this matter further in the belief that an additional reduction for SPED should have been forthcoming under the terms of the new Circuit Breaker program.)

Article 3 was reviewed next. It is the Town operating budget article, which totaled \$709,854, a 4.69% increase over FY04. Town Meeting participants reviewed each line item and challenged those it had questions about, a real democratic process. Questions were raised about salaries, cost of utilities, special projects, and reductions in preschool, veteran benefits, and solid waste services. All items questioned were approved as proposed except one, the Dog Officer's expense, which was reduced.

Other articles acted on and approved were to use Free Cash in the amounts of \$50,000 to reduce taxes and \$25,000 for the Stabilization Fund. Another \$25,000 for the Three-Town Dump Account was withdrawn. (This latter amount will be included in the recalculation of Free Cash for FY05 this September.) The purchase of a new truck for the Highway Department raised questions as to need and how to finance it. The purchase was approved, but the Selectboard and FinCom will discuss financing options, which include using State road money.

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Milestones

Born June 9, 2004, **Josephine Bimey Delaney deLeeuw**, daughter of Michael Birney deLeeuw and Chaire E. Delaney of Bloomfield, NJ; granddaughter of **Jane Bimey deLeeuw and the late Leon deLeeuw** of Heath, Jess Delaney of Micanopy, FL, and Joseph Delaney of Montclair, NJ, and great-granddaughter of L.W. Smith of Cedar Key, FL.

Born June 15, 2004, **Ostin Lee**, son of Isaac Kelley and Jillian Lively of Turners Falls; grandson of **Lee and Valerie Lively** and **Nathan and Cindy Clark**, all of Heath, and Theodora Kelley of Buckland and Jerry Kelley and Karen Campbell of Gill; great-grandson of Frederick Rice of Ashfield, Leander and Kathryn Lively of Colrain, Theodore and Edith Graveline of Gill, and Janet Kelley of Turners Falls, and great-great-grandson of Merrill Field of Ashfield.

Born June 16, 2004, **Allyson Cait**, daughter of Chris and Dana Wolanske Unaitis of Greenfield; granddaughter of Pamela Wolanske, Robert Wolanske, and Richard Unaitis, all of Greenfield and **David and Diane Cote** of Heath, great-ganddaughter of Ken and Lucy Lincoln and Joseph and Amy Poirier, all of Greenfield.

Lawrence E. Bohrer of Greenfield died July 13, 2004. Born in Arnheim, OH, on February 18, 1911, he was the son of William C. and Frances A Barnes Bohrer.

He was a graduate of Oberlin (OH) High School and Oberlin College and served in the US Army during World War II, attaining the rank of Captain.

In 1936, he joined the Deerfield Academy faculty, retiring in 1979.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth M. Schwarz Bohrer, a son, **David L** of Heath; a daughter, Sarah J.Caldwell of Libertyville, IL; a brother, William D. of Norwalk, OH; a sister, Katherine Smith of Oberlin; a granddaughter, **Sarah Banks Hartshorne** of Heath, and three grandsons, George, William, and Henry Caldwell of Libertyville.

Memorial donations may be made to Second Congregational Church, 16 Court Square, Greenfield, MA 01301, or to Baystate Visiting Nurses Association and Hospice, P.O. Box 482, Sunderland, MA 01375.

William E. "Bill" Crowningshield of Wilmington, NC, died July 5, 2004. Born in Heath on October 7, 1940, he was one of seven children of the late Herbert E. and Florence L. Smith Crowningshield.

A graduate of Charlemont High School, he enlisted in the Coast Guard at 17.

He is survived by his wife, Harriet Welch Crowningshield, of Wilmington; two sons, William and Daniel, and a daughter, Terri Lee, all of Wilmington; seven grandchildren, and several cousins in Heath.

Robert Giard of Landrum, SC, died July 13, 2004, in South Carolina as a result of a crash of a helicopter that he was piloting.

He was born in 1963 in Heath.

He flew for Northeastern Helicopters of Ellington, CT, Channel 21 News of Memphis, TN, Papillion Grand Canyon Tours of Arizona, Air Evac of Missouri, and Regional One

Medical Evac of Spartanburg, SC.

Survivors include his wife, Kimburly Ahearn; two sons, Christopher Kain of Greenfield, and Steven Kain of the US Marine Corps; a brother, Joseph of Hawley; six sisters, **Mary Howe and Phyllis Thane**, both of Heath, Linda of Greenfield, Kathy Phillips of Colrain, Arlene Gazza of Glastonbury, CT, and Joanne of Jacksonville, VT, and several nieces and nephews.

Lorin Stanley Gowdy of Heath died July 20, 2004, at home. Born in Shelburne on October 10, 1950, he was the son of Harry L. and Betty M.E. Reynolds Gowdy.

He was a 1968 graduate of Mohawk Trail Regional High School and received an associate's degree from Greenfield Community College. He served as Heath police chief for seventeen years. As a result of his efforts, the town received grants totaling more than \$90,000 for community policing.

On June 12, Lorin was honored by the town at a retirement party that was attended by a large number of family and friends who came to pay their respects and thank him for his many years of service to the community.

For the last two years, he was employed as manager of Burnt Hill Blueberries. Prior to retirement in 1999, he worked for Yankee Atomic in Rowe. At the same time, he owned and operated L&S Enterprises, making classic Adirondack furniture.

He was a member of Yankee Beemers, a regional BMW motorcycle organization, of the Greenfield Moose Club, and was a life member of the National Rifle Association.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his daughter, **Laura E.** of Heath; a brother, Harold W. of Asheboro, NC; a sister, Carolyn E. Wheeler of Shelburne, three nieces and nephews, and his close companion, **Margo Newton** of Heath.

Funeral services were held on July 23 at the Smith-Kelleher Funeral Home of Shelburne Falls.

Memorial donations may be made to Baystate Visiting Nurses Association and Hospice, 45 Amherst Road, P.O. Box 482, Sunderland, MA 01375-0282.

Robert W. Nelson of Sevierville, TN, formerly of Worthington and Rowe, died May 18, 2004. Born in Florida on December 31, 1923, he was the son of Wallace C. and Margaret C. Swenson Nelson.

Following service in World War II, he drove tractor-trailers from coast-to-coast for more than forty years.

Survivors include a sister, **Margaret "Peggy" Stowe** of Heath and a niece and goddaughter, **Lisa Diane Stowe** of Heath and Ellington, CT.

A graveside service will be held in West Cemetery, Rowe, at the family's convenience.

Margaret A. "Marge" Robins Ress of Heath died July 12, 2004 at the Anchorage Nursing Home in Shelburne. Born in Southbury, CT, on May 19, 1947, she was the daughter of Jack and Julia Daigle Robins.

She was a graduate of Newtown (CT) High School. She moved to Heath in 1976.

Survivors include a son, Russell L. Manz, of Bernardston; two daughters, Robin A. Towers of Charlemont, and Heidi M. Williams of Colrain; a sister, Jacqueline Clancey of Greenfield, and four grandchildren.

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("Milestones" continued from page 17)

Funeral services were held July 14, 2004. Burial will be at a later date.

Memorial donations may be made to the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, 1 Wacker Road, Suite 2430, Chicago, IL 60601-1905.

Requiescat in pace

Heath People In the News

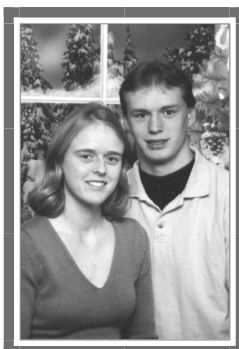
Carl Thomas Ayers and Emily Louise Bates were married on July 17, 2004, in Potsdam, NY. Carl is the son of **Hilma and Richard Sumner** of Heath and B. Keith Ayers of Lynchburg, VA. Emily is the daughter of Kevin and Carrie Bates of Canton, NY.

Ruth Ayers, sister of the bridegroom, was a bridesmaid, and, among those attending, was Carl's aunt, **Charlene Churchill**.

After a wedding trip to Georgia, Carl and Emily will make their home in Wilkes Barre, PA. Carl is employed as an assistant structural engineer with Clough, Harbour & Associates in Scranton, PA.

Michael Wilmeth and Kate Bailey of Heath were married on June 26 in an outdoor ceremony in the garden of their home, Full Circle Farm, in Heath.

Michael is the son of Don and Judy Wilmeth of Providence, RI, and Kate, the daughter of Edward and Marion Bailey of Beverly.



Recent Graduates

Lara and Ross Thane, formerly of Brunelle Road, are recent graduates. Lara graduated in December 2003, from Wagner College, Staten Island, NY, and is now attending law school at Villanova University in Pennsylvania. Ross graduated from Milton Hershey High School in Hershey, PA, in June of this year. He will attend Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA, in August to study filmmaking.

Lara and Ross are the children of Arlene Thane of Philadelphia, PA, and Bill Thane of Worcester, and the grandchildren of Alli Thane-Stetson of Heath

PTP News

The PTP had a very busy school year, and now we are hoping to catch a little rest this summer. However, we are running a summer enrichment program on Wednesday mornings for children entering first through sixth grade. Wind whirligigs, dragon kites, thumbprint garden shirts, tie-dye socks are just a few of the wonderful projects that we will be doing.

We will also be at the Heath Fair with our games and raffle booth. We have some wonderful items that are being raffled (a cord of wood is one) so stop by our booth and take a chance on a ticket.

Officers for next year's PTP will be Robin Jenkins and Trish Archambault, co-chairs. Dana Blackburn, secretary. Peter Laurent

and Mary Sumner, treasurers. We want to thank Amy Wales and Elizabeth LaPointe for their service as treasurer and secretary this past year.

The PTP meets the third Thursday of each month during the school year and welcomes any community member who would like to attend.

~ Robin H. Jenkins, Co-chair

From "North Forty"

Even though we no longer have the blueberry farm I am still a part of Heath and still love blueberries.

I am pleased to announce that "JACK'S FAVORITE" is still part of the Heath Fair. This booth which is in the Exhibit Hall is for Blueberry entries. There are two categories taste and artistry. This year I will be awarding prizes in each category as follows: First, fifteen dollars, Second, ten dollars, and Third, five dollars.

So get baking and crafting for the HEATH FAIR August 20 - 22. THINK BLUE

~ Jack Cable

P.S. When Jake Tripp owned The Benson Place and I lived at Burnt Hill Farm, our greetings were- he was "South Forty." I was "North Forty." Then he moved to Taylor Brook Road - so I was "South Forty" and he was "North Forty." Well, now he is "South Forty" and I'm again "North Forty."

("Finance Committee Report" continued from page 16)

The increase in property taxes for FY05 to an estimated \$25.67 (+16.4% above FY04) is above the \$25 threshold as defined by the State, but will be adjusted downward to about \$24.73 with the use of \$50,000 in Free Cash. Further, when Heath built its school, a Debt Exclusion was voted, which would allow for a tax rate in excess of \$25, if needed.

\$2473 for a \$100,000 home is a severe tax burden on those with moderate, low, and fixed incomes. (There are tax reduction provisions for the elderly in the law. Inquiries should be made to the Assessors' Office.) Heath's current tax base is \$53,534,697, which is composed of 98.5% residential/personal property taxes. The other 1½% is commercial and industrial! Hard to visualize any significant tax base there, plus the fact there is only one tax rate for all of Heath. While the base is expected to increase after this year's revaluation, the increase is purely arithmetical and really doesn't solve anything. The overall problem is constantly increasing costs unsupported by lack of economic growth to compensate for the trend. It is not just a local problem. The State is caught up in the same situation, but it has a wide range of options to cope with the process. (One of them has been to shift mandated school costs to local taxpayers!) Thus, the question arises what to do about the situation. Not a new question, but time to raise it again. The FinCom plans to discuss the matter with the Selectboard on July 12.



**Please come to the Friends of the
Heath School Library Tag Sale on
the fair midway.**

All proceeds go to the school library.

CONGRATULATIONS RAY AND TERRY



On August 28, Ray and Terry Pettengill will celebrate their **50th** wedding anniversary. They have been Heath residents for 35 years and their individual and combined contributions to our town have been incalculable.

They met at prep school, the Maine Central Institute, in their senior year in 1950. Following graduation, Ray went to the University of New Hampshire for a year and then joined the US Navy, serving for four years. Terry went to nursing school graduating after three full years (no summers off!) with her RN.

They became engaged in 1953 and were married on August 28, 1954. Ray got out of the Navy in 1955 and went to work for Massachusetts Electric in Haverhill where they lived for thirteen years during which time their four children were born, Michael, LeEllen, Kevin, and Kirk.

In 1968, Ray was transferred to the Yankee Atomic Plant in Rowe, and in the following year, they bought their present home on 8A North.

During their 35 years here, they have both been very active in town affairs. Terry was one of the founders of the *Heath Herald* in 1979 and served as Circulation and Business Manager until she retired in 1994. Ray joined the staff in 1987 to do the advertising, retiring at the same time.

Ray has served as selectman, assessor, a member of the Board of Health, and is now the Senior Center Coordinator. Terry worked as a substitute nurse for Mohawk Trail Regional High School, as a constructional nurse at Bear Swamp, and did private nursing as well when and where she was needed.

Ray likes fishing, gardening, and maple sugaring. A computer expert, one who understands the inner workings and can repair and rebuild them, he likes making home pages and helping people solve their problems...an invaluable community resource! He also likes to write and contributes his column, "Rays of Interest," regularly to the *Herald*. Terry is noted for her cooking and baking expertise and has contributed generously to untold numbers of community bake sales over the years. She is an avid reader, enjoys growing flowers, shopping and giving gifts to all her children and friends. Together, they are devoted friends of the Heath Library.

Son Michael and wife Tracey make their home in Colchester, CT. They have one son. Daughter Le-Ellen and husband Peter live on Long Island, NY. They have three children, a boy and two girls. Son Kevin and wife JoAnne live in Ludlow. They have a

son and a daughter, and the youngest, Kirk, lives with wife Sandy right around the corner in North Heath. They have three daughters and a son...altogether ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The *Heath Herald* staff extends special congratulations and best wishes to Ray and Terry and thanks them for all they have done for the paper and for Heath!

New Agricultural Commission

The Selectboard is in the process of appointing members to a new Agricultural Commission to represent the farming community of Heath. If you are involved in or care about farming, please consider serving on this important commission.

The mission of the Agricultural Commission will be to preserve, revitalize, and sustain the Heath agricultural industry; promote agricultural-based economic opportunities; provide public relations service, outreach and education to the broader community, and encourage the pursuit of agriculture.

In meeting these goals, the Commission would: inventory farms and agricultural lands, identify farmers' needs and concerns, network with the agricultural community, provide a voice and visibility for agriculture, identify and establish sources of funding, connect farm owners with available farm lands, encourage farmland preservation.

Helping farmers sustain and increase economic viability is the single best way to help maintain Heath's rural character, which is so important to our community and will benefit us all. Please consider serving on the Agricultural Commission by calling the Town Coordinator at 337-4934.

~ Deborah Phillips

Community Calendar

- August 7** - Third Annual Benson Place Blueberry Jubilee, 2 to 8 p.m.
- August 19** - Exhibits to Exhibition Hall 4 to 8 p.m.
- August 20-22** - Heath Fair
- August 28** - Heath Historical Society Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper and 10th Anniversary Celebration of Solomon Temple Barn restoration. 3 to 6 p.m.
- August 30** - First day of school
- September 7** - The Academy at Charlemont opening day
- September 14** - Selectboard resumes weekly schedule.
- September 23** - Heath Elementary School Open House

Petey, the Peacock - an update



A little over two years ago he and his mate wandered into our area. The female disappeared, but the male, Petey, has been here since. Last summer he looked pretty sad, as he molted and lost all of his long, beautiful tail feathers. By winter most of them had grown back in, and now he looks like "the proud peacock" he is. Of course, right now he is pretty noisy due to the fact he still doesn't have a mate. When people drive by he is usually up on something, and he gives them a greeting call or, as Bud calls it, a squawk! We hope he is with us for many a year!

~ Val Kaempfer

Heath Emergency Services News

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

5/29/04 - Town Farm Road - ATV Accident
 6/22/04 - Modoc Street - Medical
 6/29/04 - West Main Street - Medical
 7/05/04 - Number Nine Road - Medical
 7/06/04 - Number Nine Road - Medical

Have a safe and fun time at the Heath Fair.

~ Timothy Lively. EMT

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