



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

\$1.00

Volume 27, Number 2

June/July 2005

Heath Elementary School Sixth Grade



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Left to right, Row 1: Izzy Miller, Jared Erho, Iris Laurent, Noah Matthew, Chelsea Furlon, Ayla Daniels.
Row 2: Teacher, Marilyn O'Brian, Tony Lawson, Abby Lessels, Travis Graves, Tim Allman, Forrest Webler, Elana Posl-Lumbis.

Congratulations to all the Graduates

and to all their proud parents!

Best Wishes for a Shining Future!

More Graduation News on Pages 6 and 7

Heath Herald

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Church News

Church Benefit

By Hilma Sumner, Minister

Since the beginning of April we have been enjoying a variety of guest speakers in our services as the membership granted me a three-month leave of absence. This will continue until July 1 when I return to my full responsibilities in the church. Our Sunday service begins at 10:00 a.m. each week with a mid-week Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Both services are open to anyone wishing to attend.

Spring and summer in the church signals the time when our seasonal folk return, and we have an opportunity to get reacquainted with vacationing friends who make Heath their second home. It is also the time for that thorough cleaning many of us do each year in our homes, barns, and garages.

Because we all discover unused "treasures" as we clean, the church will again be having a tag sale at the Fairgrounds on June 26. The sale will be held that Sunday afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. If anyone has items that they wish to donate, please contact Richard Gallup at 337-5367 or Ruth Corey at 337-6692. The proceeds of the sale will be used to benefit the construction of the new church kitchen.

Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Rain</u>	<u>Snow</u>
March 13, '05	2"	14"
April '05	6 1/4"	0
May '05 (to the 10 th)	1"	0

In This Reporting Period:

The most snow was on March 13 - 8 inches.

The most rain was on April 24 - 3 inches.

The highest temperature was on April 20 - 82 degrees.

The coldest temperature was on April 22 - 27 degrees

Total snowfall for the 2004/2005 winter season was 99 1/2 inches.

We had a very warm and dry spell for about nine days in mid April, then things were on the cool and wet side for a couple of weeks after that. There were some wet snowflakes on April 25.

Heathans Abroad (Sometimes Innocent)

Uruguay is a world away from Heath. Not only is it far in distance (a 10-hour flight from D. C.), but it's a whole other planet in terms of language, vegetation, food, customs, and the fact that the seasons are the opposite of ours.

So we ventured forth to find the lovely two-week vacation house we had rented on a whim at an auction at The Academy at Charlemont. Summer in February! On the wall adjacent to the terrace was a profusion of tropical vegetation: pink and white oleanders, trumpet vine, bougainvillea, lantana, hydrangea blooms the size of soccer balls, a brilliant scarlet hibiscus with buds that were never intended to open, and a gardenia that presented us with one perfect, pure, fragrant bloom. Aggressive but lovely bird calls awakened us each morning. In February! Within a five-minute drive were beaches with no end and restaurants galore. In twenty minutes was the charming port city of Punta del Este where Argentines come to vacation.

No one speaks English. Well, in two weeks we found two people who did. So communication was an interesting challenge, but we managed very well with some interesting charades and little more than basic, fractured Spanish. However, when a store clerk proudly presented Eric with a spark plug instead of charcoal for the grill, it was back to square one. In our favorite outdoor beachside restaurant we became known as the "dictionary people" as we looked up items on the menu. Even so, Uruguayan specialties such as *rabas* (fried calamari) or *abadejov* (a wonderful local fish) didn't make the dictionary.

This is a country where not only milk and juice, but some very good wine, also comes in cardboard boxes. The big local market, known as "Punta Shopping," kept the meat section facing the mattresses and the produce adjacent to linens and shoes. But it was the daily schedule that we fell into easier than we expected. We'd have late, leisurely breakfast, and then lunch mid to late afternoon. And don't even think about going to a restaurant before nine. Even so, as we'd be leaving dinner at 11:00 p.m., entire families would be just arriving.

Life is casual, and people in bathing suits frequent seaside restaurants and stroll the main streets of town. The sights can be quite interesting; imagine, if you will, a 300-pound lady in a thong! The wines are lovely, either in a box or a bottle. The margaritas are inspiring! Multitudinous varieties of fruit are delightful. The fish is abundant and delicious.

To top it all off, we can't resist just a few days in Buenos Aires just across the Rio de la Plata. B.A. is a busy, modern, and cosmopolitan city famous for, among other things, the tango, its world-renowned opera house the Teatro Colon, and Eva Peron. Restaurants called *parillas* serve wonderful Argentine beef, often displayed cooking over open fires in the restaurant. The main artery in the center of town boasts thirteen lanes of traffic. The Recoleta

Cemetery contains street after street of elaborate above-ground tombs of the wealthy, including that of Evita. Ice cream shops boast eleven different kinds of chocolate, and if you are a shopper, you're in paradise.

At the end of our travels we return to mud season and sap buckets, bare branches and dirty snow, cool refreshing temperatures, and the hope of spring in the air. We are home to our own bed, our sweet and friendly cats, comforting fires in the fireplace, and friends who all speak English.

~ Dianne Grinnell

Food for Thought

Have you ever pondered as to why this country has never had a nationwide famine? As you look around this world and you see so many starving souls, do you wonder why the USA seems to be so well-off, food-wise?

I would like to have you consider my theory on this matter. Take a globe and look at the countries and areas that seem to have the most difficulty feeding their people. Now remember your study of geography. Remember the north temperate zones and the south temperate zones? We live in the north temperate zone along with Canada, most of Europe, and part of Asia. Now look at the Equator and see the south temperate zone. Consider these countries and areas: Canada, Europe, northern Asia, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and southern South America. What conclusions can be drawn here?

All of the countries and areas I have listed foster a large animal agriculture. On the other hand, all the nations that have problems with food supplies try to raise grains as their primary source of food. Why do I think that this is the overwhelming reason for food shortages in these regions? There are several reasons.

Think of the millions of acres of land in this country that can never be tilled, that are able to be grazed by our large herds of beef cattle and sheep. This land would be unused in regions that consider grain production as the main food for their people.

Another thing to think about is that a beef animal eats and stores consumed grain and forage for up to three years. Sheep and swine also store their feed and forage for a year or more. This ability is a cushion against a crop failure because of drought or floods that can destroy a year's crop of grain production. The reservoir of stored food tides us over times when natural disasters destroy the reserves of grain. It becomes a stabilizing factor in the food chain that makes the lands that nurture animals so much better able to survive. Rodents and storage problems are also great problems.

As you see the news of starving people anywhere in the world, be thankful for all of the farmers who take care of their herds and flocks year after year. Our great USA would not be the same without them.

~ Douglas Stetson



Wild Ramblings

Laugh of the Ghost

By Bill Lattrell

On a distant hill, through the blackened night forest of the new moon, the cries of a pack of coyotes can be heard. Part yip, part bark, mixed with mournful howls, the coyotes are likely celebrating a kill. In the past, I have set off in anticipation of locating these creatures, but they always seem to be one hill away through the darkness of the night. Like a laughing ghost, the coyotes are visible to your soul but never to your eyes.

It is with mixed feelings that I listen to them bellow, scream, and yip. They celebrate life over the death of another. It is the way of the wild. Life and death are intertwined. The end of one life means the continued life of another. It has been that way since life was formed on this planet.

I, like other observers of nature, am reticent to interfere with such events. I think I understand my position in the universe of the natural world. Sometimes I observe, sometimes I record, and sometimes I participate in the natural order of the living things on earth. Understanding your position in this universe is not the same as understanding the whys and why nots of the natural world. As a human I am limited to my views of three dimensions. I know not what other plants and animals can experience, but I suspect it is far more than we realize or are capable of experiencing ourselves.

Humans are remarkable at emotional survival. We remember the pleasant events, and choose not to pay attention to those events that are unpleasant. Consequently when something really bad happens we are shocked. We celebrate life, as we should, but most of us really don't think too much about death. We don't have to. We are insulated from death most of the time. When we consume another animal it often has been killed by another. Interestingly, we don't consider the consumption of a plant as death to another living being at all.

Recently I learned my mother has cancer. My thoughts are consumed by her situation day and night. She has had surgery, and we are hopeful that this is the end of it. But we really don't know. When you really love someone, you really want to know. But like the call of the coyote, that knowledge is always one hill away.

My mother is nearly 80 years old. She has lived a rugged and valuable life. At the age of 78 she joined a group that provides direct support to women who have been sexually assaulted. In the last year she has worked as a volunteer for over 1000 hours. She was designated as Volunteer of the Year by the Women's Crisis Center in Horry County, South Carolina. In this way she is celebrating life.

On this dark night, I hear the coyotes call. With mixed emotion I share the celebration of the coyote. I think of life and I think of death and I am mindful that they are absolutely intertwined and that we cannot celebrate one without celebrating the other.

With each mournful howl I remember that coyotes at night are like laughing ghosts. They are visible to your soul, but never to your eyes.

And with this I pray for my mother.

The Vermont Jazz Center BIG Band Concert

The Vermont Jazz Center BIG Band will be performing at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 9. We will be sharing the stage with Kim Zombik, an internationally known jazz singer and Billy Holiday interpreter.

I have the pleasure of playing the slide trombone in this wonderful eighteen piece jazz band.

The BIG Band, an American tradition, has a sound like no other: velvet saxes, lush trombones, cascading trumpets, and driving rhythm combine in a polyphony of parts, some prescribed, some improvised. Eighteen of the northeast's finest jazz musicians combine to bring regional audiences uplifting, soul-touching, heart-stirring, toe-tapping performances. A listener comments, "It's like being awash in an ocean of sound...floating and dancing!"

The Vermont Jazz Center BIG Band celebrates the genre with mesmerizing solo improvisations and stunning ensemble work. They explore an engaging range of musical mood, tempo, and styles so that listeners are always entertained and delighted by the unexpected. Combining a fundamental sense of good fun, with a dedication to making art, the VJC BIG Band is a celebration of music, of jazz, and of life!

Tickets to the concert are available at Boswell's Books and on-line at: www.hilltownfolk.com.

~John Tierney



Green Thoughts

Tree Peonies in Heath

By Pat Leuchtman

Phyllis Kades, a longtime summer resident of Heath, had several tree peonies in her garden at Green Bough, and transplanted a portion of them to the long bed across the road when she moved. I was always very impressed with the size of those plants, but in fact, I never saw the tree peonies in bloom.

It wasn't until Henry and I traveled to China and visited botanical gardens and the Forbidden City that I became familiar with these gorgeous and hardy plants. I particularly remember the beds of tree peonies in one of the back gardens of the Forbidden City, the imperial palace in the center of Beijing. No longer forbidden, this palace and its gardens are now a museum, welcoming the public. No crowds thronged the garden the day we were there, and it was not difficult to imagine noble Chinese ladies wandering among these fabulous plants that grow into shrubs four by four feet or more, covered with dozens of silken blossoms. Chinese royalty could not keep these magnificent flowers to themselves. Before long the nobility had their own collections and pavilions were built in gardens so they could be admired during their short bloom season.

After seeing those tree peonies I wondered whether Phyllis had been inspired by the peony gardens in Japan, but I never found out if that was true.

It was not until the fall of 2002 that I planted two tree peonies of my own. I could not resist a peony named *Guan Yin Mian* which can be translated as Guan Yin's Face. While in China I developed a great interest in Guan Yin who is also known as the goddess of compassion. She is usually depicted with her little bottle of the dew of compassion which she sprinkles liberally on the suffering. She is also known for appearing in visions and for her merriness, asking people why they struggle so. She (or he – because her gender is not always clear) is also shown with a great fan of arms and hands. In the center of each hand is an eye. I always thought this was a grotesque image until it was explained that Guan Yin has a thousand eyes to see the troubles of the world and a thousand hands to help.

In early June of 2003 *Guan Yin Mian* bore four immense pink blossoms with a golden crown in the center. I picked the first blossom so I could enjoy it before the rain battered it. In less than 24 hours the bloom looked less like a goddess wrapped in brocade and more like the tattered tutu of a ballerina after an exhausting Ode to a Rose, but for those hours I just drank in the delicacy of the petals and the richness of the shades of pink.

In addition to *Guan Yin Mian* I planted *Tamafuyo*, a Japanese variety, which also blooms in pink silk. In the fall of 2003 I added the Japanese *Tamasudare* which produces white blossoms and in 2004 I added the Chinese *Shou An Hong* which is large and fragrant and red. Neither of these two have bloomed yet, but I have great hopes for this spring.

All peonies are very hardy and trouble free. Disease and pest problems are almost nonexistent. Choose a spot where the plants will be protected from the noonday sun, and from strong winds. As

with any long-lived plant, it is more than worthwhile to plant it carefully and well. Dig a generous hole in a well-drained spot, and enrich the soil you remove with compost. Also add some lime if your soil is acid. Tree peonies need to be planted with the graft or bud union four inches below the soil level and the soil well tamped down. Then mulch. The ideal planting time is in the fall and the mulch will help protect the plant during its first winter. I keep my tree peonies mulched to hold down weeds.

Unlike herbaceous peonies that must be cut back to ground level each fall, tree peonies have shrubby branches that do not die back each year. Dead branches can be pruned out each spring.

The delicacy and fragile appearance of the enormous tree peony blossoms belie the hardiness and strength of the plant. Their season is brief. I can well understand the fashion for peony-viewing pavilions.

Whittemore Spring



Colonel Hugh Maxwell purchased the farm of Colonel Asaph White who bought the place from Dependence Thayer in 1772. In the deed was included the following, "a reserve is made for necessary roads as likewise a reserve of one acre as a burying-place for use of the town forever where the dead are now buried to lye 8 rods upon road, and the owner is to have the privilege of pasturing said place with horses, sheep and calves but no other creatures, he maintaining the same fence as he must do if there were one burying place thereon." Also, "dividing the water so as to leave a good watering place in that part (east end) of the lot." In the deed of White to Maxwell of 1776 this watering place is designated as "Whittemore Spring" although no deed is on record, either to Whittemore or from Whittemore. (From the text *Sesqui-centennial Anniversary of the Town of Heath, Massachusetts, 1785-1935*, pp. 62-63.)

This spring has been a significant source of pure water for all inhabitants of Heath ever since and is expected to continue to flow for generations to come. At the Heath Bicentennial in 1985, signs were constructed by Dominic Musacchio and erected by him and Newland Smith at twelve historic sites, one of which was Whittemore Spring. The significance of this historic site warrants its protection by the Town of Heath and the Heath Historical Society.

~ Jack Cable

President, Heath Historical Society

Editors Note: We asked the 2005 graduates to tell us of their high school activities and their plans for the fall.

Mohawk Regional High School



Elizabeth Lemelin, daughter of **Paul and Alice Lemelin**, plans to attend Greenfield Community College for two years and then transfer, and she will continue to work at Baker's Pharmacy.

At Mohawk, she played field hockey, sang in two choruses, was in the all-school musical, "SUESSICAL," served as a volunteer for sign language and speech pathology classes, and was on the prom committee and the yearbook staff.



Jamie O'Dea, daughter of **Lenny and Mary Beth O'Dea**, plans to attend Greenfield Community College.

At Mohawk, she was vice president of the National Honor Society, a teacher's assistant, on the prom committee and in the chorus and the all-school musical, "SUESSICAL." She also helped with the sign language program



Jenna M. Plante, daughter of **Paul and Debbie Ann Plante**, plans to continue in her present position as a personal care assistant.

At Mohawk, she participated in field hockey, speech pathology and sign language classes, in chorus, and the school's musical productions.



Kate Severance, daughter of **Jon and Jane Severance**, will attend Johnson State College in Johnson, Vermont. She plans to major in Studio Art with a concentration in Sculpture and a minor in Musical Theater.

At Mohawk, she performed in four musicals including this year's "SUESSICAL" in the role of Mrs. Mayor, in three Ja'Duke Community Theater productions, and with the Mohawk Select Chorus. She was on the Mohawk Harvard Model United Nations team. Outside of school, she has taken dance classes and drawing and pottery classes. And - she has worked for the past year at the Jacksonville, Vermont, General Store.



Moriah Sterling, daughter of **Vicki Sterling and Mike Chrisman**, will attend college in Costa Rica through the Friends World Program of Long Island University. For the following three years, she will continue study abroad, choosing her destinations from a list that includes London, India, China, Japan, and New York. She plans to study International Relations and Political Science.

While at Mohawk, Moriah was a member of the National Honor Society, vice president of the Key Club, the Harvard Model United Nations, and Mohawk Students for Peace. She participated in the Concert, Women's, and Select Choruses, the Dance Band, and in several musicals, the most recent being: "SUESSICAL" in the role of Gertrude McFuzz. In addition, she was captain of the Girls Varsity Soccer team.

Outside of school, she served as an aide to Nathan Grandison, and she danced with the Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts and this summer will be in two of their musicals, "Aida" and "Cave of Fish."

Also graduating from Mohawk is **Rachel Almeida**, daughter of **Joseph Almeida**.

The Academy at Charlemont



Sarah Hartshorne, daughter of **David and Lea Banks Bohrer**, will attend Boston University where she hopes to major in International relations with a focus on countries in crisis.

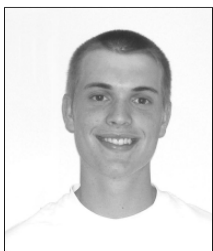
At The Academy, she was the founder and editor of the literary magazine and was a member in the Harvard Model United Nations. In addition, she participated in chorus, soccer, lacrosse, and tennis, and in Spanish, Russian, and French classes.

Cori Marsh, daughter of **Kim Gangwisch** of Heath and Fred Marsh of Westfield, plans to attend Holyoke Community College for two years to earn an Associate Degree in Business Administration and then to attend Bryant College for her final two years, majoring in a business related field.

While at The Academy, she was on the Steering Council and participated in varsity soccer and lacrosse, winter drama, and the Harvard Model United Nations.

Also graduating from The Academy at Charlemont is **Kurt Wilkins**, son of **Doug and Cathy Wilkins**.

Franklin County Technical School



Gordon Cutter, son of **Darryl and Michelle Cutter**, plans to attend Greenfield Community College and to pursue a career in law enforcement.

While at Franklin Tech, he was enrolled in the Computer Technology vocational program and was manager, pitcher, and third base-

man of the baseball team.

Steven Craig Jr., son of **Steven Sr. and Mari Craig**, plans to attend Greenfield Community College in the fall and to pursue a career as an electrician. At Franklin Tech, he was enrolled in the Electrical program.

Also graduating from Franklin Technical School is **Samantha Clark**, granddaughter of **Bill Clark**.



Greg Cutter, son of **Darryl and Michelle Cutter**, received his bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the University of Massachusetts in May.

He has been employed part-time as a computer technician by the Mohawk Trail Regional School District for the past six years. Following graduation, he plans to travel to Hawaii after which he intends to pursue a career as a computer programmer network administrator.



Deirdre Gleason, daughter of **Jim Gleason and Sarah Hettlinger**, graduated cum laude in May from Clark University in Worcester, where she majored in Environmental Science and minored in Mathematics.

As a result of six months study in Bourgogne, in Dijon, France, she won the Clark University's Award for International Studies.

She plans to vacation with her parents in Heath before beginning employment as an environmental scientist.

Where Are They Now?



Lindi May Donelson, daughter of **Russell and Carmen Donelson**, a 2000 graduate of Mohawk Trail Regional High School, graduated in January of this year from Bridgewater State College with a bachelor of arts degree, cum laude, and with a

teaching certificate in Spanish.

She spent a semester in Valencia, Spain, and a month in Costa Rica attending a Spanish school. Presently she is teaching Spanish at the Bridgewater-Raynham High School.

Rachel Brower, daughter of **Sharon Brower**, graduated in May from Bay Path College in Longmeadow, with a bachelor of science degree in Marketing.

During her four years, she participated in the college's singing groups, in the dance company, and in three musicals. In addition, she was a student admissions representative, a member of the student government for four years and vice president her senior year. This past year she was chosen to attend a National Conference on Student Leadership where she had the opportunity to meet several outstanding women.

This summer she will be in the cast of an original musical, "Cave of Fish," in Turners Falls.



Brendan Lattrell, son of **Bill Lattrell and Maureen O'Malley**, graduated in May from the University of Massachusetts with a double major in Communications and Film. He plans to pursue a career in film.

Aaron Wodin-Schwartz, son of **Bonnie Wodin**, spent a year at Greenfield Community College, a year at the University of Massachusetts, a year in Brussels, Belgium, and a final year at the University of Massachusetts. He will graduate after the fall semester with a double major in Political Science and Social Justice.

This summer he will be an intern at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia. He spent the last three summers on Cape Cod doing concrete work and waiting tables. In the not too distant future, he plans to continue studying and hopes to work in sustainable development in Latin America. He also hopes to spend more time in Heath.



Selectboard's Report

The Selectboard meets Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall (Summer Schedule), or as otherwise posted.

Annual Town Meeting - The Annual Town Meeting was held on Saturday, May 7, at the Heath Elementary School. There were 34 Articles on the warrant to be considered by the voters. Among the articles of particular interest this year was one dealing with authorization to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with the towns of Charlemont and Hawley for the sharing of costs for the capping and maintenance of the former Three-Town Landfill, and another to authorize the borrowing of up to \$351,000 to cover Heath's share of the costs. Both articles passed.

Another article of particular interest was the proposal of an amendment to the Zoning Bylaws to add a section regulating Camping Trailers, Travel Trailers or Motor Homes, and Industrial Semi-Trailers. The article generated a good amount of discussion and was eventually passed by a ballot vote. A 2/3rds majority vote was required for approval.

A "Right to Farm" bylaw and two articles related to the acceptance of the design for the new Heath Free Public Library and acceptance of any grant funds or gifts for its construction passed easily. A fund-raising campaign to pay the Town's share of the library project cost is in the works.

An article that failed to pass was one asking for a reduction in the quorum number for both Special Town Meetings and Annual Town Meetings. Town meeting attendees passed budget funding of \$1,854,159.00, that includes the Schools, Mohawk and Franklin Tech., an overall increase of approximately 6.3% over last year's budget.

Town Coordinator - Jenna Day has taken a permanent job, and Gloria Fisher and Eileen Tougas are filling the position of Town Coordinator temporarily. The Board is in the process of interviewing candidates for the position of Town Coordinator. We expect to complete interviews by June 6, and the successful candidate should be on the job by the middle of June.

Three-Town Landfill - An historic agreement has been reached by the Towns of Heath, Charlemont, and Hawley for sharing the cost of capping and maintaining the former Three-Town Landfill. The breakdown in percentages is as follows: Heath 26%, Charlemont 62%, and Hawley 12%. All three towns have passed the articles for sharing costs and appropriating funds at their Annual Town Meetings.

SEA, the engineering firm hired to produce the capping plans, has been authorized to put the project out to bid. Construction should be under way early this summer and be completed by the fall. Members of the Highway departments from all three towns will be helping to clear brush from the site and install siltation barriers to protect wetland resource areas.

Yankee Atomic has contributed payment of the cost of the engineering work for the project and may be able to assist the three towns in other ways including additional engineering and providing the hay bales and the

siltation fence our crews will be installing. We would like to thank all the Yankee Atomic officials involved for their concern and generosity.

Personnel Issues - The Board has completed work on the new job classification system and revised job descriptions and has reviewed the compensation of all positions. Rankings were also compared with similar positions throughout Franklin County via the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Salary Survey. In addition to a cost of living allowance, compensation for some positions has been adjusted upward as the outcome of the process indicates. These increases were factored into the FY 2006 town budget. Compensation for some positions will be increased incrementally until they are fully in compliance with the rating system.

Summer Schedule - The Board will be meeting on Monday evenings at 7:00 in Sawyer Hall for the summer, or as otherwise posted.

Get Involved - The Board wants to encourage residents to attend Special and Annual Town Meetings, and has agreed to identify ways, in addition to the required postings, to inform residents when such meetings will occur, such as through posters or e-mail distribution lists. We also encourage you to attend Selectboard and Town Committee meetings, all of which are open meetings where business is conducted that impacts you as town residents.

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



Heath School Lupines and Daisies.



Library Lines

Moving Along



By Charlene Churchill

Summer Reading Program

It's time to sign up for the Summer Reading Program at the library. Pick up a Reading Log and sign up for our craft programs led by Laurie Wheeler Burrington. Watch for notices at the library about times and place. The theme of this year's statewide program is: "going places @ your library." Children who are too young to read can sign up and count the minutes an adult reads to them toward our total.

Infotrac

If you are looking for information about people, places, medical information, agricultural information, or the answer to a question about just about anything, stop in at the library and pick up our new brochure about how to use Infotrac.

Infotrac is a group of electronic databases that you can use from your computer at home or at the library to access thousands of magazines and journals. The brochure explains how to get to Infotrac and some basics about doing searches to find what you want. Library staff will also be glad to help you at the library as time permits. This reference tool is paid for with your state tax dollars and is available through public libraries throughout the state. These databases provide reputable sources of information not always available on the "free Web."

New at the library

Turkish Gambit by Boris Akunin, *Human Capital* by Stephen Amidon, *Case Histories* by Kate Atkinson, *Hard Truth* by Nevada Barr, *Sugar Camp Quilt* by Jennifer Chiaverini, *Forgotten Man* by Robert Crais, *Sign of the Book* by John Dunning, *Other Woman* by Jane Green, *The Emancipator's Wife* by Barbara Hambly, *Lost Lake* by Philip Margolin, *Honeymoon* by James Patterson, and *The Red Hat Club Rides Again* by Haywood Smith.

For the young and young at heart we also have the *Artemis Fowl* series by Eoin Colfer and the *Lemony Snicket* books.



Boston Architect David King describes new library design at Public Hearing on April 13.

Building Project Update

The three articles that were needed for our Construction Grant application all passed unanimously at the Annual Town Meeting on May 7. We will be doing an official perc test on the Bray Road site in late June. We will hear from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners in late July or early August about the status of our grant application.

Governor Romney has proposed \$72,000,000 for library construction as part of his \$950,000,000 capital budget. This money would be funded through the issuance of bonds by the State if approved by the legislature. If our library project is placed on the waiting list in July this is where our state funding will come from once the bonds are issued.

I would urge everyone to lobby our legislators to support this budget proposal to help insure that the library projects that are so badly needed in our state may be funded. E-mail can be sent to Representative Dan Bosley at: Rep.DanielBosley@Hou.State.MA.US and to Senator Andrea Nuciforo at Andrea.Nuciforo@state.ma.us.

Fund-raising Projects

Buck and Bev denOuden of Number Nine Road were the winners of our Dr. Seuss basket raffle. This was the first fundraiser for our new library building.

Our next project is to collect One Million Pennies (this translates into \$10,000.) Please save your pennies (or other coins) and bring them to the library with you to help us collect our 1,000,000 pennies!

Our fund-raising task force is meeting twice a month. Forthcoming will be activities that everyone can participate in, as well as a capital campaign. In addition we plan to apply for foundation grants.



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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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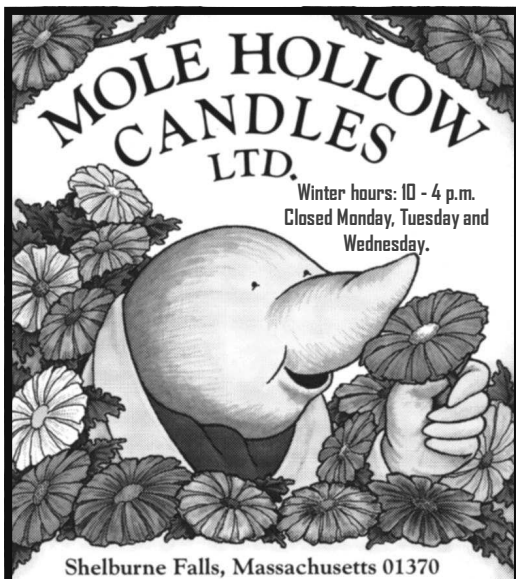
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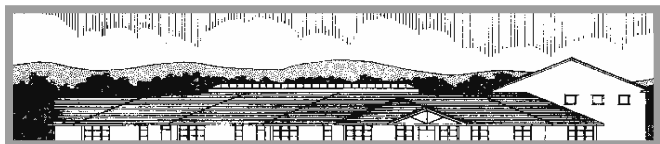
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Heath Elementary School News

By Susan Todd

Dear Friends,

As the year moves to a close our calendar is becoming very full. Out my window right now our annual Grounds Day is underway. Students, staff, parents, and community members are working hard to take care of our property. Under the direction of Virginia Gary and Tim Lively we are weeding and planting our gardens, pruning our small orchard, and repairing the longhouse, as well as grooming the path through the North Woods. It is important for our children to understand our responsibility for being stewards of the land and to know that we must care for and maintain what we have. We are grateful to John and Wanda Musacchio for all of the many donations of plants that will help bring color and life and hummingbirds to our entry and butterfly gardens. We also thank Deb Lively and Dave Gott for their participation, as well as all other parents and community members. We thank Bob DeLisle for coming to our morning All School and inviting everyone to enter the Heath Fair.

PTP and Friends of the Library. On Saturday, May 21, many of you may have participated in our Town-wide Yard Sale. This is just one of the many events throughout the year that provides us with a sense of community and much needed funds for our school programs. I want to thank our wonderful PTP and Friends of the Library for all they have done for the school this year - and every year - to provide enrichments and books for our children.

EIC Week. The week of June 13-17 is EIC week - or EEK week, as it has been nicknamed. During this time our schedules will be freed for intense project work to celebrate our local resources. Focusing on the local natural and social environment is a very exciting and enriching thing for our students, but it does take time. We are grateful to Ted Watt for facilitating the activities of this experience.

June Dates. Please note the following days in our June calendar. You are welcome to join us for any or all of them.

June 7	Project Safeguard for 6 th graders
June 9	Upper North trip to the Freedom Trail
June 10	Volunteer Brunch at 9:30 a.m.
June 13-17	EIC Week
June 17	"Taste of the World" by the Sixth Graders at 6 p.m.
June 20	Field Day
June 22	Graduation at 7:00 p.m.
June 24	Last Day of School

During this time the Art Show of student work, as organized by Polly Anderson, will be on display. Please take the time to drop by and admire the results of some excellent teaching and learning.

Happy Summer to All!

Wild Blueberries and The Benson Place

For those who are new to Heath, we'd like to let you know who and where we are. For those who already know us, here's an update. Our farm is one of three wild blueberry farms on Burnt Hill, which is the southeast corner of town. Ours is the final year-round dwelling on Flagg Hill Road before the road's un-maintained section descends into East Charlemont. Twenty of the acres that we own are managed and harvested for fruit, and we lease a similar amount from our neighbors Henry Godek and Jo Marlene Travis.

These fields of native low-bush blueberry plants were farmed by June and Leonard Day from 1989-99, and by Robert ("Jake") and Alicia Tripp for at least the two decades prior. Before that, the land had been pastured, and from 1936-43 the regionally known artist, Robert Strong Woodard, had a studio here. Woodard painted many landscapes, and the sprouts still grown from the location of the beech tree that he immortalized. Fred Burrington, Walt Cudnohufsky, and other landscape artists continue to draw inspiration from Heath's blueberry barrens.

During the 19th century, Dave's ancestors, the Bensons, owned this land, which is why we named the farm "The Benson Place." Stories of Squire and Hannah Benson were passed down in Dave's family, which helped to inspire us to buy back the property, part of it in 1994 and the rest in 1999. It has been very rewarding to get acquainted with third and fourth cousins in the area who also share ties to the cellar hole and barn foundation that remain undisturbed in a wooded section of the property.

For five years we have used organic methods of land care, and therefore have attracted many customers who pre-order or pick their own fruit beginning in late July. We also host an annual Blueberry Jubilee that includes farm and family activities, lively music, and desserts baked by Green Fields Market. This year's event will be held on Saturday, August 6, from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. For more information on the Jubilee or our fruit, visit our Web site at www.gis.net/~benplace or call 413-337-5340. A new supply of lightly sweetened blueberry spread is about to go to the local markets and will be available also at our farm stand this summer.

In our time here we have learned a lot from our neighboring farmers. We also are very glad to have been able to employ Heath youth every summer. The Fire Department has been a huge help in our getting up to speed with the process of spring burning. The blackened fields you may have seen this May from Burrington and South Roads have now been pruned and fertilized by this ancient agricultural practice. The burning also helps to limit pest populations. Pink lady's slippers, wood lilies, ladies' tresses orchids, and painted trillium are among the beautiful flowers that thrive in this unique habitat.

Last year at this time we wrote in the Herald that we were needing to sell the farm because co-ownership did not work for us financially despite sufficient, if modest, farm income. We continue to seek a good future for the farm but as yet have not found new owners. We have been exploring creative models of ownership with area community land trusts. It is getting increasingly difficult for farmers to be able to afford to buy farmland, but some new approaches to land tenure now offer alternatives. If you'd like to learn with us about one new approach to tenure, you may visit www.smallisbeautiful.org/clts.html. We are hoping to hold onto the wooded lot we originally purchased and to be able to remain in Heath.

("Wild Blueberries" continued on page 13)

Heath Business Directory

Bald Mountain Pottery
625-8110

The Benson Place
Blueberries & Applesauce
337-5340

Fred Burrington
Artist
337-4302

Coursey Design
Interior architecture & design
337-4751

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337-4705

Robert Delisle
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337-5716

Russell E. Donelson
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337-4460

Jerry Ferguson
Handyman - Lic. Electrician
337-4317

Earl M. Gleason
Fire Equipment
337-4948

Heath Brook Studio
Glass and Baskets
337-5736

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
Custom Gardens & Landscapes
337-5529

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If you would like more information about the Heath Enterprise Council, please call Alicia Tripp at 337-4964

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Rays of Interest

Dad's Stories: Part One

By Raymond Pettengill

The following transcription is the first of parts from stories my father wrote about his life, the way it was back when he was growing up, that I hope you will enjoy.

There is a small village in the western part of Franklin County in Maine called Weld surrounded by mountains and on the shores of what used to be a quiet lake. Good fishing used to be found here by people who came to this peaceful lake that has long since been turned into a raceway for modern speed demons of the motorboat age.

During World War II my wife and I purchased a cottage lot on this lake and proceeded to build us a cottage thereupon. We finished our project in 1950 and sat on the porch to enjoy the fruits of our labor. We had for neighbors, on both sides of us, quiet peaceful citizens' relatives for sure, but relatives can be the best of neighbors. Then, after about three years for reasons of their own, our quiet neighbors sold their cottages and that was the end of our relaxing porch to enjoy the songs of the wood thrush and the cry of the distant loon in the cool pleasant evening.

New neighbors had different ideas of coming to the lake to live for the summer and instead of the quiet sound of water dripping from boat oars the sound of outboard motors took its place from early morning till after dark seven days a week and not only was a trolling line in danger of being cut off, so was your head if you went out for a dip in the cool refreshing water after a hot summer day.

A cottage is no longer a place to go to on this once quiet lake. You can't go for a restful row or a bit of fishing as you could in the good old days before the kids took over everything but paying the bills, and if you sit on the porch and try to talk you have to shout to be heard. If you catch any fish you have to catch them before the city company gets here the first of June.

The people who live in our little town get their living by working in an adjoining town, with the exception of a very few like the postmaster, two storekeepers and a few others. The population of our town in the winter is about three hundred and fifty but around two thousand in the summer. One of our slower-witted citizens replied to a summer visitor who told him he thought there were some funny characters in Weld, "They are all gone by Labor Day." But speaking of characters it reminds me of some of the old settlers here and a few of the old fellows who used to tell of stories in the barber shop as they would sit around the fire and perhaps watch a game of cards.

One of the old-timers had quite a sense of humor. It seemed on one occasion he went to an adjoining town where he had been before. As he was about to come home he pur-

chased a suit of clothes and told the store owner that he would pay for it the next time that he came to that town, but, as he tells it, he never went back so he never had to pay for his suit. That same old fellow was out on his farm one day when his old dog "Shep" got a woodchuck cornered in a rock pile, and old "Cy" ran to the house to get the shotgun to shoot the rascal that had been eating up his garden stuff. Back he came and moved a few rocks so the dog could get hold of the woodchuck to pull him out. The air was soon filled with dog and woodchuck both, so old Cy could hardly tell one from the other. Finally he shot and the dog was in line of fire but old Cy was not going to blame himself the rest of his life for that, so, as he tells it, he thinks that old Shep believes that the woodchuck was the one that shot him. Cy is the same old fellow who said that if he knew where he was going to die he wouldn't go within a 100 miles of the place, but I guess he didn't know where that place was for he has been dead a long time now.

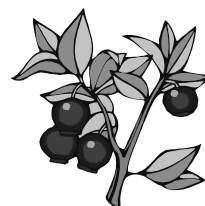
We are told of an old fox hunter who used to live above Weld Corner who hunted on snowshoes so much that he couldn't walk without them on, also of an old guy who lived out in Perkins Plantation who got religion and went down cellar and poured out all the hard cider from his cider barrels. He told the congregation about it the next spring, but he says he didn't tell them he held the pitcher under it. These and many more yarns were told to keep a long winter evening interesting until it was time for someone to say "Lets go home now so the barber can go to bed. He will break his neck if he sleeps in his chair another hour."

("Wild Blueberries" continued from page 11)

Meanwhile, this has been a busy year in our effort to permanently protect the farmland. We are partway through the lengthy pursuit of the sale of development rights to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Agriculture Preservation Restriction (APR) Program. Several properties in Heath already have been protected in this manner, but over the past few years, funding for the program has decreased and the criteria for acceptance have become more complex. We are currently working with The Franklin Land Trust, the Heath Land Preservation Committee, the Heath Agricultural Commission, the Heath Planning Board, the area APR representative, and our neighbors to try to put together the information and agreements necessary to pull this thing off.

Heath is a wonderful place. We will continue to farm actively here until we have completed a satisfactory farm transition. Here's to a great future for Burnt Hill.

~ Dave Gott and Ted Watt





The Way It Is In The Country

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

The Great White Public Servant

By Carroll Stowe

On our road there's a large, white International milk truck. This road rig plies the roads from Heath to Wilmington and Halifax, Vermont, and several towns in western Franklin County on its way to Agawam. Thirteen stops this rig makes to pick up various farms' milk. It carries the lifeblood from these farms to be processed.

Our neighbor Buster Taylor is the operator of this impressive unit. It is very pleasing to hear Buster go through the gears at a little after 4:00 a.m. as he makes his way to his first stop of the day. This large unit has an air-operated, third axle that helps to carry the load of milk and helps also to overcome the movement of the liquid load. This truck is on the road long before a lot of people are awake.

Years ago I described in print a milk truck driver by whom your watch could be set. Buster is most surely like this personage. When we are having less than perfect weather driving conditions, I am always pleased to see Buster and his big white and silver truck return home. From one who has spent hours of my life dealing with road conditions, it pleases me that on bad days Buster has the talent to get to his destination and back home. Without a doubt countless times during his week he must compensate for the poor operators on the roads he travels.

Buster's job entails a number of tasks when he enters the bulk tank room at the farm. The temperature of the milk is recorded on the farm's paperwork, and the milk is agitated for several minutes. Then he takes several samples after it's been agitated.



Buster and Jake

Then the milk is pumped into the truck, and the tank is rinsed out and allowed to drain until the farmer comes to wash the tank before the next milking.

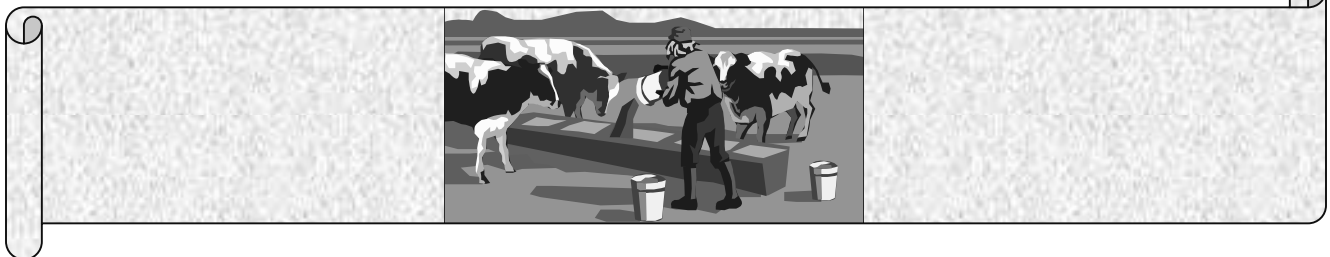
A lot of years ago when bulk milk tanks were having to be installed at various milk-producing farms, one of the sales pitches for buying a bulk tank was that a lot of the butterfat in the form of cream that stuck to the top edge of the 40-quart milk cans in which the milk was shipped to market and that the farmer did not get paid for would help to pay for the new bulk tank because this valuable part would not stick to the edges of the milk tank. I was never enlightened as to how much this sales pitch ever helped.

This large truck Buster operates is unique in that it is not completely factory-built. This unit was created using what is called a glider kit. Various large truck factories sell a cab frame and front axle, and can use components from an accident-damaged unit that are considered most serviceable. This unit of Buster's has upwards of two

million miles to its credit. This type of truck structure is an economical way of getting a unit back on the road. Milk trucks especially need long frames to accommodate large, long milk containers. The frame on the glider kit was about as long as could be provided. This way a third axle could be installed either front of the drive unit or behind.

Driving a rig with an air-controlled, extra axle takes a bit of learning to drive all over again. It can be cause for some embarrassment when having to negotiate a sharp corner you forget to pick those extra tires off the road surface. It is also possible to get hung up on that extra third axle unit and take the pressure off the drive wheels. This can be another unpleasant situation. But this is another all-in-day's comment.

Buster is most handy with this milk hauler, and the farmers in the area and Harris Milk Transport are fortunate that the great white and stainless steel milk truck is so faithfully on the road.





Letter to the Editors

Dear Editors:

I have just recently received the April/May issue of the *Heath Herald* and particularly enjoyed the article by Lois Stetson Buchiane on page 3. As I perused it, I experienced the mental equivalent of a double take, when there, in the third paragraph, was the name Betty Marshall. I am quite sure the teacher she refers to was my mother, Elizabeth (Betty) Marshall, who graduated from the former North Adams Normal School in 1931 and went to Heath as a teacher, following in the footsteps of her older sister, Edith Marshall, who became Mrs. Frank Gleason, mother of my cousins Earl and Walt, and who was well known in Heath over the many years she lived there. (Mrs. Gleason was the Heath librarian from 1967 - 1983.)

Betty Marshall later married my father, Marshall Smith, a native of Heath, and they had four children (I was the first, born in 1944). After the war, they lived in Colrain, then Conway for a few years, and in 1952 bought a farm in Heath, where they lived until around 1969. My siblings and I have so many wonderful memories of growing up in Heath and the many relatives and friends we had (many of them are still living there). We children attended the Branch School, which had three classrooms in the 1950s. As I recall, Mrs. Mabel Sears taught first and second grades, Mrs. Ruth Kilgore, third through sixth, and Mr. Roswell Miller, seventh and eighth.

Lois's wonderful and humorous essay tells me that she and I share a love of classical music, apparently thanks in part to the same early influence, that of my mother. Although we could not afford to take lessons or musical instruments, music was a strong presence in the life of our family. My mother sang constantly, everything from hymns to the current popular songs, as she went about her daily household chores. Both Mother and Dad knew many of the old songs and taught them to us. Mother had been exposed to classical music in her youth and encouraged our interest. I remember that she once bought a recording of Strauss waltzes which I played over and over, dreaming of beautiful ladies in dazzling gowns dancing with handsome men in splendid uniforms.

I would like to ask if you would mind passing this letter on to Lois and providing her with my name and address. I should very much like to correspond with her, if she is willing, and ask her for any other memories she might have of my dear mother, who passed away on January 1, 1999, followed by my father on March 15, 2001. Not a day passes that I don't think of them and every memory of them is a treasure.

Thank you, and I do want to tell you how much I enjoy reading your paper. I have subscribed to it for many years and look forward to receiving each issue which I read from cover to cover the same day. It is one of my connections to Heath, a vibrant community that will always hold a very special place in my heart. You have many wonderful and talented contributors, one of whom is Carroll Stowe. A few years ago, at the gathering after our Aunt Edith Gleason's funeral, my sister and I had a nice chat with him. Back in the late '50s and early '60s, a number of us of high school age "Heathans" attended the old Arms Academy in

Shelburne Falls, and Carroll's wife Peggy was one of our "bus" drivers. As I recall, the town would "contract out" the bussing of the high schoolers to certain brave souls who were willing to subject themselves and their vehicles to less than ideal roads and sometimes insolent adolescents. Peggy and the others have my respect!

All the best to you, and keep up the good work!

Donna Smith Hazleton
Keene, NH

Election Recap

The Town Election, held on May 6, was in quite a contrast to the Presidential Election day of last November. Our local election saw only 53 voters (eleven percent) of the present total of 501. I'm sure this low turnout was due, in part, to the fact that there were no contests on the ballot.

The officials who were elected are as follows:

<i>Selectman</i>	<i>Planning Board</i>
Brian DeVriese	Robert Viarengo
<i>Assessor</i>	<i>Library Trustee</i>
Henry Leuchtman	Jane deLeeuw
<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Dog Officer</i>
Douglas Wilkins	Angela Graves
<i>Finance Committee, 3 yr. term</i>	<i>Constables</i>
David Howland	Charles Kaempfer and
<i>Finance Committee, 1 yr. term</i>	Robert Tanner, Jr.
Douglas Stetson	

The Annual Town Meeting was held the following day, and we saw a slightly higher attendance with 77 voters (fifteen percent). The meeting ran smoothly with lively discussions on several of the articles. When the article that dealt with reducing the quorum for town meetings came to the floor, several individuals spoke out against it as they believed a larger quorum requirement stood for a stronger, more democratic meeting.

The motion for this article was defeated so the quorum remains at five percent of registered voters needed to hold a Special Town Meeting and ten percent for the Annual Town Meeting. There was some informal discussion at the end of the meeting about ways to better communicate when a Special Town Meeting is scheduled so keep your eyes open for notices in the papers and signs around town and then take a few minutes to show that you value your right to vote by your attendance at the meeting.

~ Hilma Sumner
Town Clerk



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Town Nurse Notes

Stopping the War Against Life



By Joanne Fortune, RN

I'm reading and rereading a book by Jack Kornfield called *A Path With Heart, A Guide Through the Perils and Promises of Spiritual Life*, (Bantam, 1993). It's about how to meditate, how to stay in the moment and not worry about the past or future. Here's a taste from the chapter called "Stopping the War." Mostly I'll quote the writer, sometimes I'll shorten what he's said, but I won't change the meaning.

The un-awakened mind tends to make war against the way things are. Without understanding, we can easily become frightened by life's fleeting changes, the inevitable losses, disappointments, the insecurity of our aging and death. Misunderstanding leads us to fight against life, running from pain or grasping at security and pleasures that by their nature can never be truly satisfying.

Our war against life is expressed in every dimension of our experience. Violence on TV, murder in the streets. We carry on wars within ourselves, with our families, communities, among races, and nations worldwide. The wars between peoples are a reflection of our own inner conflict and fear.

(By war, he means as serious as on the battlefield and as small as thinking you aren't good enough).

Contemporary society fosters our mental tendency to deny or suppress our awareness of reality. Ours is a society of denial that conditions us to protect ourselves from any direct difficulty and discomfort. We expend enormous energy denying our insecurity, fighting pain, death, and loss, and hiding from the basic truths of the natural world and of our own nature.

To insulate ourselves from the natural world, we have air conditioners, heated cars, clothes to protect us from every season. To insulate ourselves from the specter of aging and infirmity, we put smiling young people in our advertisements, while we relegate our old people to nursing homes. We hide our mental patients in mental hospitals. We relegate our poor to ghettos and stay away. . .

We use denial to turn away from the pains and difficulties of life. We use addictions to support our denial. We're addicted to alcohol, drugs, gambling, food, sexuality, unhealthy relationships, or the speed and busyness of work. We use these to avoid feeling and to deny the difficulties of our lives. Advertising urges us to keep pace, to keep consuming, smoking, drinking, and craving food, money, and sex. Our addictions serve to numb us to what is, to help us avoid our own experience, and with great fanfare our society encourages these addictions.

An interesting philosophy to reflect on.

I see people in their homes on Tuesdays by appointment, and I'm in the Community Hall on Tuesdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. (just walk in). My phone number is 774-2958.

Red Sox Trophy Comes to Heath



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Milestones

James Cerone Jr., son of **Jim and Dianne Cerone** of Heath, and **Lauren Gately**, daughter of Brian and Sandy Gately of Grafton, were married on May 7, 2005, in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Immediate family and a few close friends were in attendance. James, a civil engineer, and Lauren, a preschool teacher, live in Newton.

Born on February 18, 2005, **Hannah Louise Mackie**, daughter of Kendra Mackie and Zaqueu Ferreira, both of West Springfield; granddaughter of Stacie Mackie and the niece of William Mackie, both of Shelburne; granddaughter of Terry O'Brien of Australia and Valdete and Jose Ferreira of Agawam; great-granddaughter of **Helen Mackie** and the late **Charles H. Mackie** of Heath, and of Maria Rosa and Domingos Justino De Assis and Geralda Rosa Jesus, all of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and great-niece of Laurie Mackie of Florida.

Heath People in the News

Helen Cable, mother of **Jack Cable**, celebrated her 97th birthday on March 6, 2005. Mrs. Cable and her husband Chauncey celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on October 20, 2004. They reside on Cape Cod.

Jack Cable was recently elected Auditor of the Town of Chester, VT.

Charlene Churchill is recovering at home following surgery at Franklin Medical, and is doing well.

On May 12, Donna Smith Hazleton of Keene, NH, formerly of Heath, visited with cousins **Tom and Claire Rabbitt**, her uncle **Louis Smith** and caregiver cousin **Jim Hazlett**, and with **Lois Stetson Buchiane**. She reported that she wished she could get away more often as "spending time with friends and family in Heath is one of her favorite things to do." (see Letter to the Editors)



Corey P. Lopes, son of **Paul and Debbie Ann Plante**, and a specialist in the Army National Guard, is with the 42nd Military Police Division and has been serving in Tikrit, Iraq, since December of 2004, where he is part of a security team protecting Mas-General Taludo. This is Corey's second deployment. He spent most of 2002 to 2003 in Uzbekistan.. Having completed

his sixth year, Corey has decided to make the Army his career and has just re-enlisted for six more years. He expects to be home on leave for two weeks in July.

Jesse Porter-Henry, son of **Deb Porter and John Henry**, was awarded the Dr. Vanderlyn R. Pine Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Northwood School, Lake Placid, NY, where he has been teaching math and geology this year. He has also served as their free-style and lacrosse coach.

Dick and Hilma Sumner celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary on May 20 with a weekend trip to Maine.

Ladies Aid Scholarships

In 1995, the Ladies Aid of Heath decided to give some financial support to a Heath student who had excelled in high school and would be attending college.

The awarding of scholarships has continued. We are pleased to announce that this year's recipients are Rachel Almeida and Elizabeth Lemelin.

~ Ruth Corey
Ladies Aid President

Community Calendar

June

June 05 - Mohawk Trail Regional High School Graduation, 1:00 p.m.

June 07 - Project Safeguard, Heath Elementary School, all day

June 08 - Heath Elementary School, half day

June 16 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

June 20 - Heath Elementary School Field Day, afternoon

June 22 - Heath Elementary School graduation, 7:00 p.m.

June 24 - Last day of school - HAPPY VACATION!!

June 26 - Heath Union Church Tag Sale, Fairgrounds, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Ladies Aid Bake Sale, Fairgrounds, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

July

July 07 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

July 09 - The Vermont Jazz Center BIG Band concert, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls, 7:30 p.m.

July 21 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

July 30 - Ladies Aid Fair, Heath Union Church, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Heath Historical Society's Old Town House and Center Schoolhouse open, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

August

Aug. 06 - Annual Blueberry Jubilee, The Benson Place, 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Aug. 19 - The Heath Fair
29 - 21



Heath Fire - Rescue News

Recently the Fire Department, through the Firemen's Association, has taken delivery of an air bottle refilling station from a volunteer department in Connecticut. We now have the opportunity to fill our own bottles instead of driving to Turners Falls. Having the air refilling in-house also allows the members of the department to train more using the air packs. The Association would like to thank Dave Cote for being able to locate this system for us.

As you may recall from my last column, I mentioned the need for more EMTs in Heath. There is a sorely inadequate number of EMTs. I have talked to one of my co-workers, who just happens to be an EMT instructor, and would be willing to teach a course here in Heath. She states the minimum number for the class would have to be 12. If we could get more into the class, even better, as that would drive down the per student cost. More details will be made available as they come to me. Interested? Feel free to get in touch with me, and I will fill you in with what I know.

Fire-Rescue Log:

3/08/05 - 8A South, Motor Vehicle Collision. Rescue responded.
 3/21/05 - 3 Flagg Hill Rd, Chimney Fire. E3, E2, and rescue responded.
 3/22/05 - 162 Sumner Stetson Rd., Chimney Fire. E3, E2, and Rescue responded.
 3/23/05 - 237 Number Nine Rd, Medical. Rescue Responded
 4/05/05 - 85 Branch Hill Rd, Electrical Problem. E3 responded
 4/06/05 - 93 Avery Brook Rd, Motor Vehicle Fire. E3 responded
 4/09/05 - Mutual Aid to Colrain for Brush Fire
 4/10/05 - 16 Swamp Rd, Grass Fire. Brush Truck, E3 responded

As the summer season approaches, the Fire Department wishes you all a safe and enjoyable season.

~ Jeff Simmons



Friends of the Heath School Library

The Friends of the Heath School Library would like to thank all who supported us at our Annual Town Meeting breakfast on May 7, and at our plant and food sale at the PTP Town-wide sale on May 21.

Proceeds from all your purchases, as always, continue to allow our librarian Wanda Musacchio to fill the shelves of our school library with GOOD books for all our children.

**KEEP IN MIND THAT YOUR
SUPPORT PROVIDES 98 % OF THE
LIBRARY'S BUDGET!**



Heath Senior Center News

Current Events :

Becky Bradley has been conducting exercise classes every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. upstairs at the Center. The classes were hosted by the seniors of Heath and are open to the public.

Senior Lunches are being served every first and third Thursday of the month. The meals are open to the public and all seniors by reservation only. For reservations call Dot Sessions at 337-4896.

Brownbags (nutritional groceries in a brown bag) for seniors only may be picked up every third Wednesday of the month. For details call Dot Sessions.

The Heath/Rowe Girl Scouts are holding meetings every Saturday morning in the upstairs hall.

The Food Coop is using the upstairs hall to distribute pre-ordered food to any interested persons. For times and details call Dianne Cerone at 337-8438.

The computers at the Center are set up for all seniors in Heath to surf the net, do e-mail, or use the printers to write letters.

Things done and things going on:

Summer Barkoskie is our new custodian and is doing a fine job to keep us neat and clean.



A gazebo, compliments of the Hall Committee and Council On Aging (COA), has been set up in the side yard with table and chairs for anyone to use.

The kitchen Ansul fire protection system was inspected and heat links replaced. By law

this has to be done twice a year.

The kitchen stove left-hand oven was not lighting properly and has now been fixed by a gas technician sent from the GCS gas company. Stove was still under warranty.

The right-hand exit door crash bar from the upstairs hall is out of order and parts are on order. The left-hand door has been fitted with a new crash bar and now opens both doors in an emergency. These doors will not open at this time from the outside.

The COA magazine rack has been moved to the downstairs hall by the back exit door and will have pamphlets, town reports, and information for the seniors to use.

The stage area and the old stairwells have been cleaned up. The elevator service room has been cleaned out, but there is still no word from the Selectboard on elevator repair.

As of 5-1-05 there were 35 hours available for the public to use the upstairs hall at the Senior Center.

~ Raymond Pettengill
Heath Senior Center Coordinator

*"There are flowers
everywhere
for those who bother
to look"*

~ Henri Matisse



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