



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

\$1.00

Volume 28, Number 3

August/September 2006

August 18, 19, 20

Thursday, August 17

Exhibits accepted 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Friday, August 18

8:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Exhibit Hall

Midway, Concessions

Pony Pull 5:00 p.m.

Trailer Park 8:00 p.m.

Original Rock and Roll, Dancing

Saturday, August 19

8:30 a.m. - Midnight

Rabbit Show 9:00 a.m.

Adult Sheep Show 10:00 a.m.

Exhibit Hall 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Adult Cattle Show

Horse Draw 11:00 a.m.

Chicken Barbecue Noon

Moonshine Holler Old Time Music 1:00 p.m.

Children's Games and Entertainment 3:00 p.m.

Selkie Scots and Irish repertoire 4:00 p.m.

Square Dance: 8:00 p.m. - Midnight

Country Friendship Band with Doug Wilkins, Caller

Fireworks At Dark

Midway, Concessions

Sunday, August 20

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Blueberry Pancake Breakfast 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Gymkhana 8:00 a.m.

Exhibit Hall 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Ox Draw 9:00 a.m.

Oxen Parade to follow

Church Service 9:00 a.m.

Youth Sheep Show 10:00 a.m.

Poultry Judging 11:00 a.m.

Youth Cattle Show 11:00 a.m.

Chicken Barbecue Noon

Shelburne Falls Military Band Noon

Antique Car Cruise

Parade. Theme: School Days 1:00 p.m.

Scything Demonstration 2:00 p.m.

Girl Howdy 2:00 p.m.

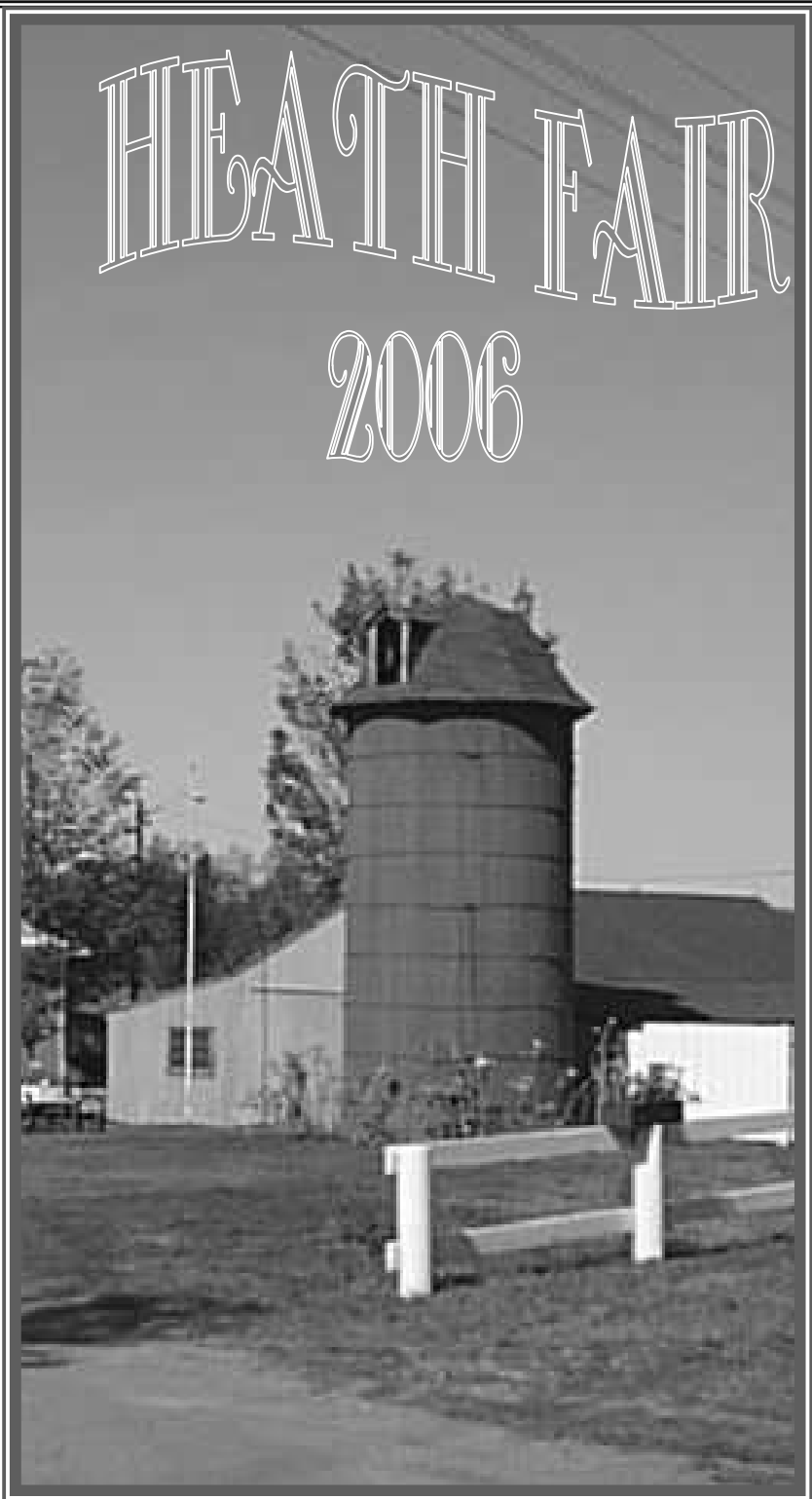
Midway, Concessions 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

All entertainment under cover, Rain or Shine

Adults \$6 ~ Seniors \$3

Kids, 9 and under, Free

Free Parking ~ PLEASE, No Pets.



Heath Herald

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

THE HERALD DEADLINE FOR THE October/November issue is September 10, 2006. All 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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Letters to the Editor:



Thank You

To the residents of Heath:

I'm almost speechless in my gratitude for being the Heath Town Nurse for the last eight years. June 30 was my last day. Thank you for letting me into your homes and lives.

I'm in awe of how resourceful, independent, neighborly, positive, and courageous you are. I appreciate the kind support you've shown me over the years. I thoroughly enjoyed the job, every aspect of it, because of you.

Thank you,
Joanne Fortune
 Town Nurse Emerita

Friends of the Heath Free Public Library, Inc.

The Friends of the Heath Free Public Library, Inc. held their annual meeting and luncheon on July 26 at the Charlemont Inn. The agenda included annual reports and the reelection of officers: Don Dekker, president; Pat Leuchtman, vice president, Jan Carr, secretary, and Jane deLeeuw, treasurer, as well as planning for the annual Book Sale and Raffle at the Heath Fair.

As usual, books of most every genre for adults and children will be on sale. We are always very fortunate to have enough donations from townspeople to more than fill our tent and are grateful for this annual clearing-out by our contributors. And thanks to all who contribute raffle items.

The Book Tent will be open:

Friday - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday - 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Sunday - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m..

We consider all Heathans to be "Friends" of our library and invite all to attend our annual meeting and to sign up to work at the Book Tent during the Fair. The sign-up sheet is in the library.

See you
at the Fair!





TUNISIAN CONVERSATIONS

Early this year I received an invitation to give a paper in Tunisia in North Africa. In early July I traveled there and stayed for six days. The conference at which I gave my presentation was called "New Directions in the Humanities." It was held at a University in Carthage. It was an occasion for me to meet and confer with scholars and teachers from North and South Africa, numerous countries in Asia, South America, the Middle East, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, and Russia.

My paper was called "Indigenous Voices and Sacred Spaces." It was about the two courses that I have developed and led on the Lakota and the Eastern Pueblos. What particularly pleased me was the response of indigenous thinkers from Hawaii and Australia who came forward after my talk and said, "Yes this is the way we would like to have our cultures studied, our people met, and our places respected." I was offered invitations to visit them and indeed I hope that they reciprocate and come to visit in Heath and at the University of Hartford.

Equally rich and compelling were the conversations with philosophers and poets from Iran, Syria, Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon, and Palestine. I had read some of their work and some of them had read mine. They, as I, have been struggling to articulate a renewed postcolonial humanism free from Eurocentric assumptions and paradigms. For years I felt like I was wandering alone in a post-modern desert, a wasteland of nihilism that Nietzsche had predicted where fascism and genocide became as morally and politically acceptable as the pursuit of justice or the search for common human responsibilities. I then discovered postcolonial thinkers from India, the Caribbean, and Africa. They too were concerned with the lack of ethics and with the amoral politics explicit in or clearly implied in much of postmodern discourse. To meet my Middle Eastern colleagues who are interested in a renewed and transformed humanism is very exciting to me. We are searching commonalities to the human condition that can be focal points for discussion, collective hope, and for social and political action. We have strong beginnings in the United Nations Declarations on Human Rights and the Asian version of this Covenant, which is called the Bangkok Accords. Asian nations and cultures place more emphasis on the rights of community whereas western legal principles are largely based on the rights of individuals. I do not think that these traditions are ultimately incompatible. If we function with a genuine respect for difference we can draw on the best of both of these cultural, moral, and political values.

Working with my Middle Eastern friends I am reminded of an Islamic teacher in the Emirates. A number of terrorists had been caught by their government and were imprisoned. Getting permission from the government, the teacher asked the prisoners if they would like to form a study group. The rules proposed by the Mullah were that through studying the Koran together and discussing it, if they could convince him that violence of the form they were engaged in was justified, he would join them. If, on the other hand, they were convinced that Islam did not advocate terrorism, they would sign a document and forswear violence of the form in which they had been involved. For three months they spent six days a week reading and talking with each other. After these lengthy discussions the former terrorists signed a document committing them to a different path.

Many Muslim people have been misled by Mullahs into a false jihad. This is not much different from what many of us were taught about the Crusades or the Crusades themselves. What were we being taught through singing "Onward Christian Soldiers Marching off to War"? Too frequently we Americans and Europeans have believed that God was and is on our side. It happened in our own history so many times. One of these occasions was the conquering and forced Christianizing of Native Americans and the destruction of their languages, religions, and cultures.

Many Muslim people believe that the West and the U.S. in particular are trying to destroy Islam. They react to the influx of western popular culture by becoming more rigidly conservative. This is not unlike the puritanical intolerance of the religious right preaching hatred and contending that the only moral persons in the world are Christians. Mark Twain contended in a number of ways and through many novels and characters that when you are self-righteous and certain, it is difficult to be thoughtful and kind. By being so one also loses sight of our common humanity. This is a disease that appears in all of our cultures, in much of our politics and religions, and, too frequently, in our philosophies. Individuals and movements that promote and celebrate the absolute truth are very dangerous. They know for certain who should live and who should die and who deserves our tolerance and respect.

If my newfound friends and I can continue to meet in humility, courage, and resoluteness, perhaps we can make a small contribution to the positive relationships between nations and cultures. There will be no easy answers. Genuine thinking, as is the case with creative politics, is complex, tedious, and often riddled with fits and starts. War is at times tragically necessary but these occasions are indeed rare. Strength does not come from intimidation. Voltaire said "make sure your enemy is not totally humiliated." If so he will always remain a threat. Genuine power comes from values that respect and celebrate all of humanity. With genuine respect for diversity, thriving on constructive disagreement, and working towards sustainable consensus, a better path or a better configuration of paths may emerge. If we continue with the rituals of hatred, vilification, and revenge in which our governments and many of our people are presently engaged, no one will win. A genuine peace has no victors.

~ Bernard den Ouden

Dr. Bernard den Ouden, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Hartford, is the author of *Language and Creativity*, *Reason Will Creativity and Time*, *The Fusion of Naturalism and Humanism*, and *Are Freedom and Dignity Possible?*. He has given guest lectures in over fifteen countries, and has served as a consultant on antipoverty projects in Egypt, India, Bangladesh, Guatemala, Mexico, and Pine Ridge Reservation. He spends as much of his year in Heath as he can.

A “Most Amazing” Voyage



A month ago on May 28, 2006, I stepped off the SSV *Westward* forever. I was leaving what had been my home, and my life for the past four months. That day I had to say “goodbye” to my friends and my shipmates who were practically my family. I spent four months with the same 32 people 24/7 being no farther then 125 feet from them the entire time. I lived with my teachers, saw them at 3:30 a.m. for dawn watch, saw them brush their teeth, take a bucket bath, saw them in their pajamas, and ate and took classes with them. I became so close to these 32 people and got to know them better then I know anyone else.

This voyage of mine began February 3 in Saint Thomas. We went as far south as Trinidad and Tobago and went as far north as

Castine, Maine, and the trip ended May 28 in Boston. Everything in between was nothing short of amazing. We went to Carnival in Tobago, played a local high school soccer team in Bequia, walked to a bioluminescent bay at 11:00 p.m. and went swimming in Vieques, Puerto Rico, and did and saw so many more amazing things. The sailing was absolutely incredible. On night watch which was either from 2000-2400, 2400-0400, or 0400-0800, you would be up on bow watch looking for other vessels and couldn't help being distracted by the blanket of stars that covered the sky or by sailing in the reflection of the full moon.

My classes were out of the ordinary, to say the least. While underway we would have two classes a day, one at 1000 and one at 1400. I would either have maritime history, maritime literature, marine applied mathematics, marine biology or navigation, and seamanship. How many kids can say that their English class was interrupted by a herd of 30-40 dolphins jumping and frolicking around us, or that they had their science class inside of a old volcano that has now turned into a rain forest in Saint Eustatius. I learned how to do so many things that I could never have imagined doing. I learned how to find our position on a chart using a sextant, to navigate by the stars, and to know every line on the boat like the back of my hand.



Some of my favorite memories are going aloft. Whether it be with one of my best friends, Kenzie, just going up and sitting on the spreaders 65 feet above the water talking about our lives and getting to know each other so well and just having an amazing time; or going up with one of my other best friends, Scott, sitting watching the sunset and having a contest to see who could throw the rolls that he took from the galley the farthest and talking about whatever came to mind.

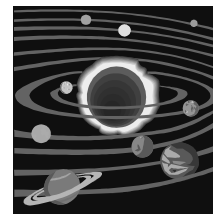
This trip was the most amazing thing that has ever happened to me, and I wouldn't take it back for anything and would be back on *Westward* with all of my friends to do it all over again in a heartbeat.

~ Grace Phillips



Wild Ramblings

The Copernicus Connection



By Bill Lattrell

Editors Note: While Bill Lattrell is recuperating from shoulder surgery, we are running one of his earlier columns (his choice) from the Herald of August/September 1991. We wish him a speedy recovery!

When it comes to the natural world, few people give credit where credit is due. It is a tendency of man to think he (painfully, more than she) is the center of the Universe. For centuries, and, as measured in time, not long ago, humankind believed that all of the Universe, the sun and the stars, revolved around our domain, the Earth. Copernicus, the sixteenth century astronomer, set the world ablaze upon proving that the earth was but a small cog in the wheel of the solar system, dutifully circling our star, the sun. And later it was shown that the sun was also a small cog in the wheel of a much larger universe.

Centuries later, a man named Charles Darwin, in writing *The Origin of the Species*, really upset the human ego when he put forth the theory of evolution. This theory, hotly debated between scientists and theologians for decades after its introduction, took man off the throne as king of the earth and equated him to the rest of the natural world, simply by stating he came from it. Although there are some people who still believe that the world is flat, and that man did not evolve from the animal kingdom, most people agree that the position that man holds in the natural world is not as superior as once thought. Yet we still credit ourselves with much in terms of “inventions” and new ideas that have existed quietly in the natural world for millennia. This way of thinking proves to be dangerous, especially in these times when so much of the natural world is being lost. Without the natural world, man would be hard-pressed to improve his material world. All of our current ideas, technologies, and theories are based upon concepts that already occur in nature. Simply put, said the great naturalist, Loren Eisely, we do not invent anything, we merely discover what already exists.

There are countless examples of the natural world coming to the rescue of the human condition, either by discoveries enabling man to counterattack terrible diseases, or contributing to the improvement of the human habitat. Scientists consistently turn to the natural world when looking for disease prevention and cures. The reason for this is simple. Nature has had millions of years to experiment with nearly every possible combination of chemicals and elements. Both the plant and animal kingdom have undergone countless changes to adapt to environmental conditions. Many eminent naturalists believe the natural world to be of a reciprocal order. That is, for every condition there is an antidote.

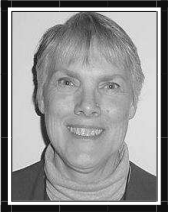
There are many obvious examples of this thought. Louis Pasteur discovered penicillin by experimenting with bread mold and discovering this fungi had the unique ability to prohibit the growth of many bacteria. He also developed the notion of vaccinations. He injected incredibly small doses of a foreign body into an animal so that the natural immune system gradually developed antibodies, thereby enabling the animal to be resistant to the foreign body when exposed to it. By dabbling in the natural world of fungi and bacteria, Pasteur was able to set the stage for future medical scientists, the result being generally longer and more comfortable lives for the human population.

Very recently scientists have been studying spider venom as an antidote for the terrible effects of Alzheimer's Disease. It is thought that the spider venom, collected from a certain species in Utah and Arizona, neutralizes chemicals released at the onset of Alzheimer's that block or destroy normal brain cell activity. If research proves this to be correct, then scientists will be able to copy the venom chemically, or perhaps even clone it to develop an Alzheimer's treatment.

Another recent development is the research being done on plant galls in order to gain a much better understanding of cancer and tumor development. Plant galls are plant tumors that are created when fungi or insects release chemicals that cause rapid cell division to occur. By studying these chemicals and tumor development scientists hope to gain a better understanding and perhaps even some strong insight into tumor development prevention. This information may one day lead the human to be able to prevent or cure one of the most terrible of all diseases, cancer. For all of our knowledge of the living world, both plant and animal, there are still thousands of species that have not been identified. Each one of these undiscovered species holds a very special place on this planet, and it is likely that many could provide important information that may one day benefit man in a very big way.

Beyond medicine there are dozens of fine examples of man learning from nature in order to provide a better world to live in, at least from a human perspective. As human population increases, the need for hydroelectric production, water supply, and recreation are all made possible by the building and maintenance of dams. This technology first thought of and perfected by the beaver, is the direct result of man studying nature. Human flight via airplanes and other devices seems commonplace today. Yet for centuries humans have longingly watched other animals and plants glide around effortlessly. Eventually our diligence paid off. By studying flying plants and animals we were able to get a good enough understanding of the physical principles of flight to try it ourselves. With this effort, time and distance have become much shorter. The human has reduced the size of his universe. A much simpler example of man copying nature can be found in the miracle fastener, Velcro. This technology was copied directly from the burdock plant by a very astute observer who noted the tenacity of this seed broadcasting system and applied it to the human world. It is impossible

(“The Copernicus Connection” continued on page 6)



Green Thoughts

Mudluscious



By Pat Leuchtman

This has been an incredibly wet summer. It has rained torrents for days at a time with intervals of gray threat. Everyone I've spoken to has tales of seeds that rotted in the sodden earth and the necessity to plant twice and even thrice. The water falling from the sky met the water bubbling up from the earth. We have a tiny spring bubbling up in the middle of our road; a swath is still damp. As I walk across the lawn and feel the grass squish beneath my feet, my mind is awash with aqueous memories.

We built a Sunken Garden inside the three stone walls of a big old barn foundation. During the first spring of the Sunken Garden the southern end of the foundation was not only wet (which it continues to be), it was totally under water. The rains came down and water table rose up. I don't remember what I thought I was doing; I only remember wading out into that lake-like puddle, expecting what had been hard-baked clay surface in the fall to support me. Instead the surface had melted into a thick pudding of mud. I slipped and sank, water and mud ever nearer the top of my high rubber boots. I feared I was in a quagmire of quickmud, sucking and pulling me under. I stood alone and still under the great blue sky. I imagined my husband coming home to find my garden hat floating on the still surface of water and wondering at my disappearance. Finally, I took my fate in my hands, pulled my feet out of the boots, and lunged toward the stones where the foundation walls had collapsed. I was barefoot, but on terra firma. I thanked the heavens for the nourishing rains, but beseeched moderation!

In June of 1994 our daughter Kate planned her wedding among the roses. The spring rains had turned into warm summer rains with hardly a break. The week before the wedding the skies stayed black and wet. The tent could not even be set up. At last when the tent men could wait no longer, the tent went up during a misting rain on Thursday. On Friday evening the rehearsal barbecue and family reunion took place under the tent.

On Saturday morning the sky became darker and more threatening. The wedding procession assembled, the bridesmaids dressed in rosy pink came down the aisle, and then the bride. The moment Kate stepped inside the tent the skies opened and the rains poured down. The assembled guests burst into laughter at the timing. The bride stayed dry - except for the tears shining in her happy eyes.

The ceremony proceeded to the accompaniment of rain pattering on the tent - until it was time for the bride and groom to say their vows. Suddenly the rain stopped and a dazzling sun broke through. The minister led the bride and groom from the shelter of the tent, into the sun, to make their promises under a shining sky.

Mist and rain made for a romantic wedding day, but brides turn into mothers - and mothers into grandmothers. One spring two four-year-old grandsons came to visit for a week. And the week was wet. We hiked through the misty woods. We watched the dragonflies dancing and dimpling the surface of

the bottomless Frog Pond. But mostly we played in the mud. Well, they played in the mud. It was then I learned the secret of managing active youngsters, keep them cold and wet. The mud was endlessly fascinating. Gooney, gooney gooney. After the mud came a hosing down, a warm bath, cocoa, and Quiet Time, at last.

Water keeps children engaged and entranced. We know that our earthly bodies are mostly constituted of water, but perhaps children feel this more than adults. Feel the pull of water calling to water. Even now when they are real boys they are happy to splash in the pond, build dams in the streams, and see a rainbow captured in a drop on a spiderweb.

We as gardeners are rarely satisfied when it comes to water. There is either too much, making the soil sodden and unworkable, while plants wilt and molder away. Or there is too little making the earth dry and cracked, while plants wilt and dry to a crisp. We long for a Camelot where it never rains till after sundown. But, in the end, like Margaret Fuller accepting the universe, we accept the rains when they come. Sometimes reveling, sometimes cursing. Always nourished and refreshed.

(*"The Copernicus Connection"* continued from page 5)

to predict what secrets the natural world holds for us to discover efficient nuclear fusion for the production of energy? Time travel? The possibilities are mind-boggling

Hundreds, perhaps thousands of plant species, many of which have not yet been identified, are being lost for eternity each year, most with the destruction of the rain forests of the world. Each of these species is a specific product of millions of years of evolution. Each of these species holds a unique relationship to the natural world that no other species holds. Each of these species is one of a kind, and once lost cannot be replaced. And each of these species may provide man with an opportunity to save thousands of lives, improve the human condition, or even provide us with an understanding that will bring peace to the earth.. The loss of this many unique organisms equates to the beginning of a new dark age for modern science. The human, the great adaptor, could lose his information base from which new discoveries would come.

All of this is not to say that man does not hold a very special place in the world. We alone have the ability to both reason and manipulate. Too long we have been manipulating first and reasoning second rather than the reverse. Man alone has the capacity of understanding the interrelationships of all organisms and elements on our planet. This can only be accomplished if a reasonable number of pieces of the jigsaw puzzle are available to put together so that we can see the intended design. It is within our grasp to act as excellent stewards of the earth while, at the same time, improving the human condition.

The human being dominates the world, no doubt. Currently we are frantically spending much of our time and energy trying to undo what should not have been done. In our haste we have forgotten the lesson that Copernicus taught us centuries ago: that man is not the center of the Universe. Better we should spend our time, energies, and the great human resources of reason and manipulation understanding the natural world. And it, in turn, will help us understand ourselves.

Fond Memories of Uncle Louis

My dear uncle, Louis Smith, was the oldest of Paul and Edith Smith's seven sons. He has one older sister, Vivian, and a younger sister, Lucy. Three of his brothers including my father, Gilbert, predeceased him. All but the youngest brother, Donald, have reached the age of 80. They lived on a farm on Sumner Stetson Road and as a young man Uncle Louis worked for other local farmers such as Arthur Crowningshield and Oscar Thompson. He related many stories about his experiences including carrying Fred Crowningshield down to the barn when he was still in diapers. He told of helping his Grandfather Omar Smith plow the field, where my house now stands, with a team of oxen and helping his father hay the North Cemetery.

As a young boy he had little time for play and was expected to help on the farm. My grandfather had gotten a load of boards from houses that were dismantled before the Whitingham dam in Vermont was finished and that area became a reservoir. Uncle Louis spent many hours with a hammer removing nails from the boards so they could be used again. In winter there were times when the water pipes to the barn froze and it was Uncle Louis's job to take a horse and sled to the spring and fill barrels with water for the farm animals.

After the hurricane in 1938 flooded the area and washed out most of the bridges in town, Uncle Louis worked for Cook and Jones Construction Company rebuilding the bridges. He told of working through the winter, using small fires under the bridges to keep the fresh cement from freezing. Ironically he had to burn huge piles of brush the next summer.

Uncle Louis's cousin, Max Reed, was stricken with polio in his late teens and thereafter confined to a wheelchair. They moved to Orange together after seeing an ad for a boarding house where Max could be cared for with Uncle Louis's help. Uncle Louis got a job with Starrett Company in Athol and worked there until he retired. During those years he built his own house which is still there on Main Street. Max passed away before then, and Uncle Louis said that he had never heard Max complain once about what had happened to him.

Although he never married and had a family of his own, Uncle Louis was well loved by his many nieces and nephews. It's good to write about some of the memories he shared with us and imagine what life in Heath was like in the early 20th century. I think my favorite was his telling of how at the end of a particularly long winter with snow up to the windows, my Great-Grandfather Omar Smith, would say, "It'll all be gone by the first of July. It always has 'cept once." Then the kids would say: "When was that Grandpa?" And he would answer: "This time."

~ Claire Rabbitt

When I was asked to write a humorous story about my Granduncle Louis Smith, I had to think for a while. What I came up with may not seem particularly humorous to some, but if you knew my uncle then you will appreciate this. Actually this story is stolen from my father and my wife as they were the only known witnesses to this.

About eight years ago on a rainy day in January, my uncle's roof began to leak due to ice being backed up at the eaves. We'd gotten some snow earlier in the month and on

this particular day it had begun to rain quite hard. My uncle would not stand for this, and, being one not to ask for help, he decided it was time to shovel off the roof of his home. (Did I mention he had metal roofing?) At the young age of 85ish he got on his raincoat and boots, leaned his ladder against the eave and with, shovel in hand, clambered his way onto the roof. Once he got up there he decided to go up to the peak and work his way across the roof, removing the snow accumulation. Before long most of the snow was off his roof and he was ready to come down. Of course, by this time the falling rain had turned to a sheet of glass on the exposed metal roofing. After pondering his situation for a few moments, Uncle Louis found the only way he could stand on the roof

was to straddle the peak, not much chance of returning to the ladder.

For some odd reason my father happened to be driving by at that very moment. What makes us old New Englanders want to drive in a terrible ice storm is beyond me. At first my father thought he was seeing things, then quickly realized the man he saw on the roof was Uncle Louis. Dad parked his truck, found the now ice-coated ladder, and managed to climb it. At the top of the ladder he asked Uncle Louis what he was doing. Uncle Louis replied something like, waiting for spring so he could get off his roof. Dad somehow got himself onto the roof, and the two of them amazingly made it back to the ladder and then got themselves back down to the ground. At that point my father probably said things about an 85+- year-old man on a roof in an ice storm and Uncle Louis probably mentioned something about respecting your elders. At the end of the day everyone was home, safe, warm, and dry.

Respectfully,
~ Mike Smith



Louis Wayland Smith in his kitchen





Rays of Interest

“Women, Roses and Fish”

By Raymond Pettengill

Editors Note:

Heath Herald readers have no doubt noticed the absence of the “Rays of Interest” column that appeared regularly in the paper for many years.

We are very sorry to report that its author, Ray Pettengill, is in ill health and has had to let the column go, we hope, temporarily.

We want him to know how much we miss his lively and humorous commentaries and how much we are thinking of him and hoping for the BEST.

At the mouth of the Merrimack River, which flows past Newburyport, MA, and Plum Island, there are two jetties that extend out into the Atlantic Ocean. The turbulence and undertow in the river between these jetties caused by the tides, river flow, and the wind, can be disastrous to small craft. This is also one of the best striped and blue fishing spots on the Eastern seaboard.

While fishing in this area, alone and from my 18-foot BlueFin (definitely a small craft), dragging a big “Blue Atom” lure with three treble hooks attached to a 30-pound test line, I snagged onto what I thought must be a rock. After reversing the engine to follow up on the line it started peeling off the reel again so I knew it was no rock. I turned the boat and followed to gain some line.

With the tide, river current, and the wind on his side, the fish started to drag me perilously close to the rocks of the south jetty. I had to set the drag on the reel up to snub up the fish while reversing the engine to hold my position. Fortunately the rod was short and stiff with little bend so it was possible to fight the fish and stay off the rocks. I have no idea how long this contest lasted but finally got him close enough so I could see it was a big bluefish with all three of the treble hooks attached to him. Blues have a vicious set of teeth so I made sure he was out of commission by clumping him soundly on the head two or three times with a hard wood club. He weighed a little over 28 pounds and filled a large cooler that had some ice in it.

By now it was getting late in the day so I started home. Before getting to route 495 I spotted a truck parked on the roadside with a sign which read, “Roses for sale.” As the time would be later getting home than I had led my dear wife to think, I figured perhaps it would be a good idea to get her a dozen roses to smooth the way for me a little. It had been a hot day and the roses were a bit wilted so I got them for \$4.00 and had to put them in the cooler with the fish to keep them as fresh as could be on the way home.

At the time of this episode, a rather refined lady who lived in Heath had told me she liked bluefish and would like some if I got one. I swung up into her driveway and showed her the fish. She took one look and said, “That’s way too big for me to take care of.” I gave her one of the roses, which she thanked me for, and drove to another place where a woman lived who I know loved fish. After knocking on the door and getting no answer I placed the fish on her flat rock doorstep and placed a rose on it. As it turned out she and her husband were doing chores in a barn down the road from the

house. Her husband called out, “Who’s that up there?” When I told him it was me he asked me to come on down. When I told his wife that I had left a fish on her doorstep she went up to the house to take care of it before the cat got it. After I visited with her husband for a bit she came back and gave me a big hug and a thank-you for the rose. When I finally got home and handed the ten roses that were left to my wife she took one sniff and yelled, “fish” and threw them in the sink.

Sometimes men do not understand women!

And from an earlier column

I discovered my wife! She has made my world a very nice place to live in. I have tried to make the world a little better for other people to live in too.



**Happy 52nd Wedding Anniversary,
Ray and Terry!**

August 28, 2006



**Friends of the
Heath School
Library**

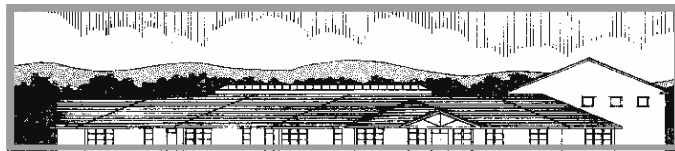
At the Fair

The Friends of the Heath School Library will hold a raffle for two round-trip airline tickets, good for anywhere in the continental USA and Canada, on USAIRWAYS, date subject to availability.

ONE HUNDRED TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT \$10.00 EACH.

You can order before the Fair by calling 337-5747.

At the Fair, look for the FHSL Logo on the Midway.

Heath School News

By Susan Todd

These warm summer days I have been going through all of the many files that comprise the archives of the past five years at the Heath School. It has been quite a fascinating process - all the remembering. I am in the midst of trying to choose those documents that (I hope) are the most important to keep in order to provide a fitting, complete, but not overwhelming record of the school's life. While living in the moment, we still have to think about those people in the future who might want to reconstruct what went on today. You never can predict what will be meaningful to someone down the line - when a roof was repaired or how a field trip was organized and who attended. Of course it's surely very random what one chooses to save and what to discard.

The week of July 8 - 15 I attended the George Washington Institute at Mount Vernon. One of the scholars, a woman named Caroline Cox, spoke to the group about her research on the soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War. When I asked her how she did her research she said it was very difficult to begin. When she was faced with a sea of file drawers to open, she just picked one and went from there. At the end of her lecture, Dr. Cox let us know that she is working on a second book on Revolutionary War soldiers, this time concerning those who were 16 or under. As it turns out, Tim Lively and I were talking about the Washington Institute the week before I left, and he remarked that one of the Heath history books mentioned that a young boy from Heath took care of Washington's horse during the war for Independence. Tim quickly found the reference in the Calver history where it listed all the Heathans who served in that war, sometimes with their ages, how long they served and, occasionally, where. And, just as Tim had said, here was Eli Gould, Jr., a "boy" who "cared for Washington's horse." I made a copy of the entire Revolutionary War section to take with me.

The day after Dr. Cox's lecture, while we were all milling in the common breakfast area, I mentioned this piece of information to her. She expressed great interest in the story, looked at the pages I'd brought and asked if she could copy them. I hoped no one would mind, but I gave my permission and said I would e-mail her all the appropriate reference information.

Then, as I was looking up the information in the Calver book, diverting me from the waiting files, I went on to the Heath Bicentennial volume, and began to be quite caught up in the quality and breadth of the celebration. I saw so many of the faces of the people I have grown to know and love these years - and some that I wished I had known. Five years ago I had no way of realizing how important the road to Heath would be for me. But had I studied that book I might have had an idea. The qualities of respect for one another, for

language, for continuity, for intelligence, for steadfast kindness, are all there. Thank you.

And now, going back to those pieces of paper, I think the only thing to do is trust the mystery of it all and marvel at what evolves

**A Well-Deserved Tribute**

It is with many degrees of sadness that we contemplate the separation of Heath School principal Susan Todd from our school and our community. Susan retires at the end of August after five years as the school's leader.

Our experience has taught us how vital the head of a school is to its daily functioning and to its overall performance in carrying out its most important mandate, that of educating her children for their present and for our collective future and doing a good job of it.

Quoting Susan: "We have tried to be as good a school as they can be."

If the experts are right and children need and will emulate models, none could have been a better one than Susan Todd. A tall, stately, soft-spoken woman with a ready, eye-crinkling smile, she has led with a firm and steady hand, faithful to the school's philosophy, with love and dedication to her school and its people, setting yearly goals with her staff, and working diligently to keep on track and fulfill them.

It has all been about connections...

Connections to each other
Connections to the building and the land
Connections to the Heath community,
its past and present
Connections to the wider world and the environment

And by learning how to function well in each space, and thereby learning how to navigate in a whole variety of situations, as their world widens, the children have been gaining the best possible education and preparation for their lives.

Simply put, Heath School is a wonderful place, a place of light and joy and fun as well as a place wherein outstanding productive and creative work is accomplished. It is made so by the combined efforts of its eager students and excellent staff, the parents, the PTP, the LEC, the Friends of the Heath Library, and other community members, all working cooperatively together under the aegis and with the strong support of Susan Todd.

To say that we will miss her is by way of a supreme understatement.

On behalf of the *Heath Herald* (we looked forward to her column in each issue), and myself, I want to express our deepest gratitude for all she has given and taught us and to wish her the very BEST success and fulfillment in her next adventure.



~ Jane Birney deLeeuw



View from Burnt Hill , Heath

Robert Strong Woodward Events

The Buckland Historical Society will present its Annual Program, the theme of which will be "Robert Strong Woodward, a painter of New England Hills and Farms," on Monday, August 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the Buckland Public Hall, Upper Street. Admission for members is \$4.00, for adults, \$5.00, and for students, \$3.00. Come and enjoy an in-depth look at Woodward's work and life.

Living in Buckland from 1912 until his death in 1957, Woodward "captured the land's magnificence" and New England's weather-beaten dwellings. His achievement as an artist is impressive enough, but he accomplished this while confined to a wheelchair. His paintings graced the living rooms of Jack Benny, George Burns, and Robert Frost.

Woodward's painting entitled "View from Burnt Hill, Heath" can be seen in the Heath Historical Society's Old Town House on Heath Common. Apparently he had a small studio on Burnt Hill that was destroyed by fire.

Abbey LaBelle (who knew and worked for Woodward) and Edith Gerry are planning to be at the Benson Place Blueberry Jubilee on August 5 at 2:30 p.m. for a Woodward chat and picture show. Numerous 8X10 shots of his Heath works will be shown on the computer screen.

Heath Free Public Library Benefit Bicycle Ride

The Heath Parks and Recreation Committee is planning a bicycle ride to benefit the Heath Free Public Library.

September 17, 2006

Start time 10:00 a.m.

Departing from Heath Center/ the Library

Three route categories: Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced

Entry fee of \$20.00 includes a T-shirt and lunch

Contact Ken Gilbert at 337-4390 or e-mail at sandygilb@netzero.net for further information. We hope to make this a fun and beneficial event!

Please register by September 9.

Heath Historical Society News

About the Annual Meeting and Buffet Supper

We are combining our Annual Meeting and Supper into Fort Shirley Days this year. The recent publication of Michael Coe's new book *The Line of Forts* has prompted us to make an event of it. Michael is a very popular speaker so we decided to hold the Annual Meeting and Supper in the Heath Elementary School on Jacobs Road where there is plenty of room for the expected crowd.

The Supper will begin at 5:00 p.m. following a short Annual Meeting. It will be a buffet style repast just like last year and will be catered by our renowned Senior Center staff. We do have to guarantee the number of persons, though, so reservations are an absolute must. Please call Jane deLeeuw at 337-8594 by August 19. The cost for an adult is \$8.00 and children under 12 can eat for \$4.00. You may pay at the door but you must make a reservation! The Senior Center staff has assured us there will be a delicious selection of fresh summer salads, cold meats and cheese platters as well as rolls, drinks and a special dessert.

We look forward to seeing all of you there. You don't want to miss Michael Coe's talk at 6:30 p.m.!

The Solomon Temple Barn Museum will be open for visitors during the Heath Fair on Friday, August 18 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.; on Saturday, August 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and on Sunday, August 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Society's publications will be on sale as well as signed copies of Michael Coe's new book, *The Line of Forts: Historical Archaeology on the Colonial Frontier of Massachusetts*. Copies of two other new titles will be available also, *Along the Mohawk Trail: A Feast of Fall Foliage and Spectacular Hill Towns* by David J. McLaughlin and Laren Bright and *Martha's People: Elmer, Ward, Rugg, & Allen Ancestors in Ashfield & Heath, Massachusetts 1750s to 1880s* by Judy Keller Fox.

The Heath Historical Society

Founded in 1900

Invites you to join us for

Fort Shirley Days

Saturday & Sunday, August 26-27, 2006

Saturday's Events

All at Heath Elementary School, Jacobs Road, Heath

4:30 p.m. - Heath Historical Society Annual Meeting and election of officers

~

5:00 p.m. - Buffet Supper*

**\$8.00 adults - \$4.00 children under 12 - Pay at the door
Reservations are absolutely necessary!**

Please call Jane DeLeeuw at 337-8594 by August 19

~

6:30 p.m. - Michael D. Coe

Talks about his new book

The Line of Forts: Historical Archaeology on the Colonial Frontier of Massachusetts

A book signing follows

Sunday's Events

At Fort Shirley Site, Hosmer Road, Heath

**2:00 p.m. - Raising of the Union Jack flag,
Guided tours of the site by Michael D. Coe and a book signing**

All are welcome!

***Catered by the Heath Senior Center Staff**

The Raffle

We are going to have another raffle this year as usual. The First Prize will be a gorgeous 100% wool queen-size blanket! This luxuriously soft blanket is white with green trim and will be on display during the Heath Fair in the Solomon Temple Barn Museum.

Second prize is a beautiful handmade quilt. It is 48 inches square and has shades of blue, green, and fuchsia accented with white. The maker is Marcia Tieman of Waddington, NY, who has donated her handiwork to the Society several years now.

Third prize will be a half-gallon of Mike Girard's prize-winning Heath maple syrup. Girard's Sugarhouse was recognized in October 2005 for its quality maple syrup at the annual competition sponsored by the North American Maple Syrup Council.

Don't miss out! Purchase your tickets at the Solomon Temple Barn Museum during the Heath Fair, August 18-20. Single raffle tickets will sell for \$1.00 or you may purchase seven tickets for \$5.00. The drawing will be held at our Annual Meeting on August 26. You do not need to be present to win.

Last year's Winners: The blanket was won by Natalie McCormick of Shelburne Falls; the quilt was won by Nancy Thane of Heath and Phoenix, AZ, and the syrup was won by Nancy Meyer of San Francisco, CA.

~ Pegge Howland



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

"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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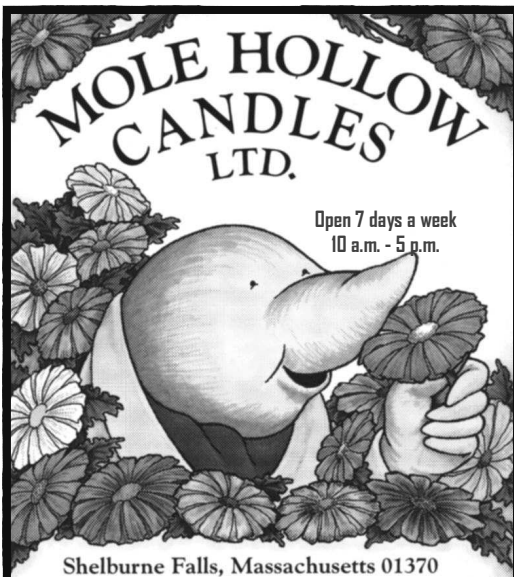
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01302
413-773-1818 / fax 773-1881



It's Your Health and Safety

Treating Bites and Stings

By Sheila Litchfield, RN, BSN

Certified Occupational Health Nurse

At this point in the summer most of us have been bitten at least a few times by some tiny creature either trying to defend itself or eating to stay alive- remember we are a part of the food chain too! Unless you are one of the lucky people insects don't bother, you might want to read on.

Bees, wasps, spiders, and hornets attack when they feel that they or their home are in danger. Mosquitoes, fleas, flies, and ticks bite you because they must suck blood to survive. When an insect bites you it injects venom into your skin. Usually venom triggers an allergic reaction that isn't comfortable and doesn't seriously hurt you unless you are among the small percentage of people with severe allergic reactions to insect venom or stings. Severe allergic reactions should be treated in the emergency department. Here's a guide to the identification of common insects and the best treatment for different bites and stings and what you can do to prevent them.

Mosquitoes usually bite the exposed surfaces of the skin, such as the face, neck, arms, and legs. Once a mosquito bites, we experience a mild stinging sensation followed by a small red skin eruption that itches. Usually there is a tiny puncture mark in the area of the eruption. A mosquito bite in areas near the eyes, ears, the top of the feet, the back of the hands can produce significant swelling that is usually not serious or painful and disappears after several days. To treat mosquito bites, use cold compresses and calamine lotion.



Flies that bite (they're not all biters) are also likely to go for exposed areas of the body and can cause raised, painful, itchy blotches that result in small blisters. These bites often disappear after a day or so but can last several days. Flies tend to congregate near food, garbage, and animal waste, so try to keep away from these to help reduce the risk of bites. Fly bites can be treated in the same manner as mosquito bites.

Fleabites result in raised skin areas that look like a small hive or welt and often contain a tiny hole in the center of the bite. Flea bites usually occur in groups, either in a line or in irregular patches on arms, legs, or in areas where clothing fits more tightly, such as the waist or thighs. These bites typically occur from a cat or dog flea. These fleas live in cracks in the floor, in carpets or rugs, or any area where pets are kept. Eliminating fleas from your pet or carpets can help prevent the problem. Treat fleabites by applying calamine lotion.



Fire ants can be irritating creatures. They possess potent venom that causes immediate pain and swelling in the area of the bite. Several hours later a cloudy fluid can be seen in the bite area. These bites usually occur in groups, especially on the feet and legs of barefoot children. Occasionally fire ants can cause generalized reactions, including breathing difficulties, hives, body swelling, fever, vomiting, and diarrhea. Ordinary ant stings, other than fire ants, are mild and do not produce intense local (at the site of the bite) or generalized symptoms. Fire ants live in colonies primarily in the southern and western states, so be aware if you are vacationing in those states. Learn to recognize the colonies - the mounds with underground tunnels - and keep your children away from them. These ant colonies are appealing to curious youngsters, but the ants attack when they're disturbed. Local reactions can be treated with cold compresses, cool baths, and calamine lotion. Generalized reactions require swift professional care, so contact your physician immediately if you or your child seems to have an adverse reaction to fire ant bites.

(*"Treating Bites and Stings"* continued on page 14)

(“Treating Bites and Stings” continued from page 13)

Bees and wasps cause stings that are immediately painful and quickly result in swelling and itching at the bite site. There are two types of generalized reactions. A less serious reaction results in hives, while a generalized reaction that can occur in some allergy-sensitive individuals, results in weakness, fainting, breathing difficulty, collapse, body swelling, multiple hives, and even death. (Every year in the United States, about 40 people die from bee or wasp stings.) Most stings, however, are merely uncomfortable.

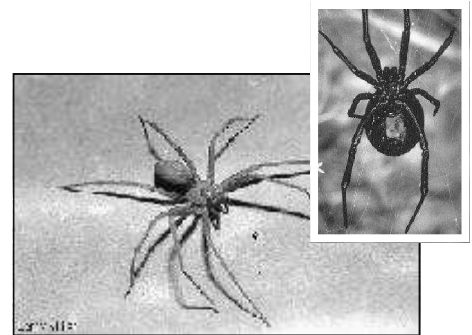


Yellow jackets are a particular problem in the southeast and are often found in grassy nests or hives. Don't walk barefoot in grassy areas. Generally these insect bites can be treated in the same manner as fire ant bites. Anyone who has a history of allergic reactions to such stings should always have an “insect sting kit” on hand, prescribed by their health care provider.



Tick bites are usually painless and are typically discovered by accident, with the tick still in place. The local bite often results in a small, raised bump with a red halo around it. Diseases caused by tick bites can be serious and include Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tick paralysis, Lyme disease, and tularemia. Treat tick bites by removing all parts of the tick with a tweezer and washing the area with soap and water. If you think the bite was from the very tiny deer tick, a single dose of antibiotic can dramatically reduce your chances of developing Lyme disease.

The bites of some **spiders**, such as the black widow and the brown recluse, are particularly dangerous because they affect your whole body. Bites from both of these spiders can cause fever, nausea and pain in addition to the skin reactions at the site of the bite. If you believe you have been bitten by one of these dangerous spiders, see your doctor immediately. Before you do, follow these guidelines: Immobilize the bitten arm or leg to limit movement. Apply a cloth dampened with cold water or lined with ice to the bite. Keep the arm or leg dangling down. Seek emergency medical assistance. Give the health care provider as accurate a description of the spider as possible.



It's impossible to prevent all insect bites, but you can minimize the number of bites by following a few rules:

- Avoid areas or be aware where insects nest or congregate, such as stagnant pools of water, uncovered foods and sweets, orchards and gardens where flowers are in bloom, and garbage cans.
- When you know that you or your child will be exposed to insects, dress both of you in long pants and a lightweight, long-sleeved shirt.
- Avoid dressing in clothing with bright colors or flowery prints, because these attract insects.
- Don't use scented soaps, perfumes, or hair sprays, because they're also inviting to insects.
- Insect repellents should be used sparingly on infants and young children. Be sure to spray the back of your and your child's head and neck. Read the label of any product you purchase. The most effective insect repellents include DEET (diethyltoluamide), and citronella. Products that are appropriate for children should contain no more than ten percent DEET, because the chemical is absorbed through the skin and can cause irritations of the skin and brain. Repellents are effective in preventing bites by mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas but have virtually no effect on stinging insects, such as bees and wasps.
- Some people claim relieve from the itching of a bite or the pain of a sting from home remedies such as meat tenderizer or vinegar to the sting area, and ammonia to mosquito bites. There's no scientific evidence that these are helpful, BUT if it works for you - go for it!

Selectboard's Report

Summer Meeting Schedule - The Board has been meeting every other Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. Remaining summer meeting dates are 8/7 & 8/21. Any change will be posted accordingly.

Heath Educational Issues Task Forces - The Task Forces commissioned by the Selectboard in response to proposals set forth by the Mohawk School District for consolidating facilities are about to complete their studies and make their reports to the Board. There is a group for each of the following issues:

1. **Out-of-District Alternatives** - What is the process for withdrawing? What are the pros and cons? What are the financial and legal implications?
2. **In-District Alternatives** - What are the implications of remaining status quo? What is in the regional agreement?
3. **Population Trends** - Identify sources of population data. What are the trends in Heath and throughout the Mohawk district?
4. **Criteria for Judging Proposals** - Identify baseline educational goals for Heath children.
5. **Transportation** - What is required by state law? What is in our district contract? What cost saving measures might be proposed?
6. **Uses of Buildings** - What are alternative uses of a school building? What concurrent uses are possible in a school building?
7. **Fact Sheet and Budget Concerns** - The Selectboard and Finance Committee will consider the implications of the reports from the MTRSD and its proposals for addressing the budgetary and educational needs of the district, and will also review and evaluate the reports of the other task force groups.

The Task Forces will submit their reports by September 30 for consideration by the Board. Although some groups have been more active and public in their deliberations, no final reports have been submitted and no decisions have been made on any proposal from any task force. The Board will study all final reports and decide on whether to pursue further study or action. Any proposed change from the status quo would be discussed in a public hearing or informational meeting and brought before the Annual Town Meeting for a vote.

Three-Town Landfill - We are about to close the last chapter on the landfill capping project that has been with us for many years. The Board met recently with the Selectboards from Hawley and Charlemont to finalize details of the ongoing maintenance and to get the final bills tabulated and paid. The state legislature has passed

a supplemental budget with a million dollar grant to the three towns for the closure project. The appropriation is awaiting final approval. This money will help to offset the bulk of the closing costs. We extend special thanks to Rep. Dan Bosley and Sen. Andrea Nuciforo for pushing this through the legislative process.

Dog Officer Needed - The Town is taking applications for the position of Dog Officer. The stipend is \$500 per year plus expenses. Please contact the Town Coordinator if you are interested.

High-Speed Internet - Heath has recently had a T 1 line installed in Sawyer Hall to provide high-speed Internet access for the Board of Health. The access is available to others in the Town Hall over the local network. A wireless network will be set up to provide access to townspeople within the area. If you are interested in a demonstration, give Gloria a call at 337-4934.

Cultural Council Vacancy - There is a vacancy on the Cultural Council. Anyone interested in volunteering or in more information may call Michael Wilmeth at 337-5754.

Heath Online - Take some time to visit the Town's Web site at www.townofheath.org. You'll find Selectboard meeting minutes, school information, and much more. The Web site is a work in progress. Thanks to the computer committee for getting this project up and running.

You may contact the Selectboard at BOS@townofheath.org. Send messages to any board or individual via the e-mail address, or visit the Heath Web site.

Heath Selectboard
Thomas Lively, Chair
Brian De Vriese
Sheila Litchfield

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This section is free to Heath Farmers, and is made possible by the sales of Carroll Stowe's compilation "The Way it is in the Country." Agricultural producers should submit their information to *The Heath Herald*, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346.



The Way It Is In The Country

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

The Old Heath Fair

By Carroll Stowe

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

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

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

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

There was no such thing as running water for drinking or washing dishes. The water supply sat on the back of a town truck and was meted out as needed. How a Board of Health would squirm if this were used today. Perhaps that water was carried to the backside of the food booth by a brand new town truck. One of my enjoyments was to observe a new town truck. I well remember a new green Dodge truck outfitted by a lot of volunteer labor to create a piece of firefighting equipment. I saw that truck in its first parade. How crude that truck would seem to fire truck apparatus dealers in the 2000s. Farmall cub tractors were just available in the late 1940s, and there was one at the 1947 or 48 fair. At some point there was also a new International Scout utility vehicle.

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

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

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

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

The 89th Heath Fair!
Congratulations to the Heath Agricultural Society

Democratic Committee Forum



The Heath Democratic Committee is hosting a Community Forum with Deval Patrick, candidate for governor of Massachusetts, on Monday August 7, from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Heath Elementary School. Refreshments will be provided by the Heath Preschool.

The discussion, moderated by Tom Lively, will be open to all residents and additional

interested parties from surrounding towns. Questions and comments will be entertained first from Heath residents.

The forum will afford an opportunity to share ideas and discuss issues facing Heath and its hill town neighbors. This will not be a time for stump speeches. Deval Patrick has expressed a desire to learn about the concerns of residents of small rural towns. He will be here to listen as he recently demonstrated on a visit to the Hager farm in Colrain.

It is unusual for a candidate for governor to visit a small town like Heath. It will be a good time to meet the candidate and for him to see the citizens of Heath and our elementary school. The organizers want to provide a clear example of how rural residents are affected by state policies and funding formulas such as those applied to the Mohawk Regional School District. As Jan Carr said, "Where better than Heath!"

As Heath's State Representative said, "Having watched Deval Patrick campaign over the past months, I am impressed not only with his intelligence on the issues, but with his compassion and desire to help others. I have watched him take stands on issues rather than political positions. He listens to people. He works hard. In short, he has the ability to be a great governor."

In order to have an idea of the number attending, if you plan to come, please let Art Schwenger or Carol Sartz know by e-mail (art@crocker.com) or by calling 337-4077.

Regional Hazardous Waste Collection Fees Increase

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District announced that it has raised disposal fees at its three regional hazardous waste collection sites. Fees for these sites have not been raised since the program's inception in 1998. The new fees will be effective on Saturday, August 5. The sites accept used motor oil, oil filters, antifreeze, paint and related products, fluorescent lamps, light ballasts, thermometers and thermostats, plus rechargeable and button batteries.

The collection sites are located at the Bernardston Transfer Station (first Saturday from 8:00 a.m.-noon), Colrain

Transfer Station (every Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.), and the Conway Transfer Station (first Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.). Residents from any District town can use these sites - only for disposal of the wastes listed above.

Other hazardous wastes must be held for the annual hazardous waste collection on September 9 at the Route 2 Ride & Park in Charlemont. Pre-registration is required by mail or online. at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org where the new fees are also posted. For more information, call 772-2438.

The District sells backyard compost bins, food waste collection buckets for kitchen, and blue recycling bins. We also provide oil collection containers free of charge to District residents.

The "Heath Herald" Travels to Russia



Virginia Birney of Danville, KY, (sister-in-law of Jane deLeeuw) reading the *Heath Herald* in front of the Catherine Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia, recently. The palace, built in 1752-56, is the home of the famous amber study, its walls being lined with amber, a gift to Tsar Peter the Great from Frederick William I of Prussia. The amber, looted by the Nazis during WWII, has been replaced making the palace a great tourist attraction..



Heath Business Directory

Bald Mountain Pottery
625-8110

The Benson Place
Blueberries & Applesauce
337-5340

Fred Burrington
Artist
337-4302

D.C. Builders
Branch Hill Road
337-4705

Robert Delisle
Electrician
337-5716

Russell E. Donelson
Design/Construction/Cabinetry
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 Goldens
AKC Registered Golden Retrievers
337-4705

John Mooney
Custom Remodeling
337-8344

Wanda Mooney
Realtor
337-8344

Alan Nichols
Furniture Maker
337-6665

Tripp's Blueberries
Taylor Brook Road
337-4964

Paul Turnbull
Janice Boudreau
Commercial/Wedding Photographers
337-4033

Bonnie Wodin
Custom Gardens & Landscapes
337-5529

Support Your Local Businesses

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



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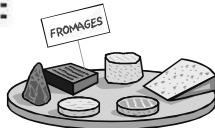
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Library Lines

What's Buzzin' at the Heath Free Public Library?



By Donald Purington

"What's buzzin' at your library?" is the slogan of this summer's Statewide Reading Program. Started in 1992, the purpose of the program is to give young readers an incentive to keep reading through the summer months. Here at the Heath Library we encourage children to keep a log of their summer reading. In mid-August they can turn in their log and receive a T-shirt emblazoned with the colorful summer reading program logo and a gift certificate to World Eye Book Shop in Greenfield. Twenty-five children have signed up to participate.

We are also offering four craft programs on Wednesday evenings in the Community Hall. The first session was attended by 23 children, and they had a great time making models of insects from air-drying clay. The session ended outside on the lawn as the kids played while their parents chatted about current events and summer plans. The clay bugs were painted at the next class, and then they made butterfly feeders from plastic milk jugs. Chunks of watermelon were put in the feeders, and more watermelon was available for participants to enjoy. The next project will be building gnome and fairy houses from materials found in nature. Special thanks is given to Lyra Johnson for organizing and running the craft sessions!

The 2006 Statewide Reading Program is funded by the Friends of the Heath Free Public Library, the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

The library display case ties into the summer reading theme with Helen Mackie's collection of ladybug items: wind chimes, picture frames, coin purse, magnets, and many other things. Please come to the library and take a look.

C/W MARS update: We have begun the process of becoming a circulating member of C/W MARS, which will allow patrons of our library to easily search for items in our collection as well as borrow items from other member libraries. This will be done using an Online catalog to search for items such as books, audiobooks, and movies. Our collection will also be accessible to patrons of other libraries. Advisors from C/W MARS will be at our library in early August to give advice about the process, install computer software, and train staff in using it. Then we will begin entering our collection of about 12,000 items into the system. This will take some time and must be nearly complete before C/W MARS will allow us to issue borrowing cards to patrons. In the meantime we will continue to loan materials as we always have since 1894.

In June, Jane deLeeuw, who had served on the Board of Trustees since 2001, resigned and Kate Bailey was appointed to the Board. During Jane's tenure the Trustees helped accomplish several major projects, including obtaining a Planning and Design Grant to work on planning a new building for the library, hiring an architect to complete a preliminary design, and completing an application to the state for a Library Construction Grant. The library's application was approved and we are currently on a waiting list for funding. I want to thank Jane for her many years of dedication and hard work as a Trustee. She continues to support the library both as a volunteer and as an active member of the Friends of the Heath Free Public Library.

New at the Library:

Books on CD: *At Risk* by Patricia Cornwell, *A Death in Belmont* by Sebastian Junger

Books for Adults: *Alentejo Blue* by Monica Ali, *Full Scoop* by Janet Evanovich, and *Labyrinth* by Kate Moss

Nonfiction Books for Adults: *Line of Forts*, by Michael Coe, *Marley and Me* by John Grogan, *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick

Children's Picture Books: *Moo Who* by Margie Palatini, *Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride* by Kate DiCamillo

DVDs and Videos: *Brokeback Mountain*, *The Rose*, and three bread baking DVDs from the King Arthur Flour Company: *Artisan Breads*, *Sweet Dough*, and *Baking with Kids*.



Milestones

Heath's oldest resident, Louis Wayland Smith, died on July 7, 2006, at Charlene Manor Extended Care Facility in Greenfield. Born in Heath on September 6, 1911, he was the son of K. Paul and Edith Gilbert Smith.

He attended grammar school in Heath and was employed by the Lane Construction Co. building bridges after the 1938 hurricane, as a farm worker on Heath farms, and by the L.S. Starrett Co. in Athol for several years before retiring in 1978.

After living both in Orange and in North Adams, he returned to Heath in 1984.

According to his family, he was sought out for his knowledge of Heath's history.

Survivors include three brothers, Floyd E. of Grafton, NY, David J. of Camden, ME, and Donald H. of Fort St. Lucie, FL; two sisters, Vivian L. Hazlett of Dover Fox Croft, ME, and Lucy Bennett of Peoria, AZ, and several nieces and nephews and grand- and great-grand- nieces and nephews. Including Heath residents, **Mike Smith, Claire Rabbitt, Jerry Smith**, and cousin **Jim Hazlett**.

A liturgy of Christian Burial took place on July 12 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Shelburne Falls, with the Reverend John A. Roach officiating. Burial was in the West Branch Cemetery, Colrain.

Memorial donations may be made to the St. Joseph's Catholic Memorial Fund, 34 Monroe Avenue, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370.

Alvin M. Hillman died on July 16, 2006, at Baystate Medical Center, Springfield. Born in Greenfield on February 21, 1952, he was the son of Smead and Evelyn Spencer Hillman.

A 1972 graduate of the former Greenfield Vocational School, he was drafted into the US Army and served for six years, primarily in Germany where he remained for four years following his honorable discharge in 1978.

He was employed for many years as a mechanic by Dillon Chevrolet, Greenfield, before becoming a self-employed excavation contractor, mechanic, and logger in Heath.

He is survived by his father **Smead Hillman** of Heath and two sisters, Linda Chapin of Northfield and Sandra McCloud of Charlemont and by nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

A funeral service was held on July 20 at the Smith-Kelleher Funeral Home, Shelburne Falls, followed by burial in the North Heath Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made either to the American Cancer Society, 40 Bobala Road, Holyoke, MA 01040 (please note "Alvin Hillman" on the check) or to the Oncology Department of Baystate Medical Center, 3400 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01107.

Requiescat in pace



Heath Deed Transfers

Karen Berley, formerly Karen Berley-Verrill, of Brooklyn, NY, to Charles Verrill of New York, NY, 17 West Main. \$1.00.

William R. Butcher, Jr., of Chicopee, to Joan C. Wolak of Sherman Oaks, CA, Mohawk estates, Lot 25. \$1.00.

William E. and Gloria M. Card of Williamstown to Mary E. Ayers of Russell, Mohawk Beach Estates, Modoc Street, Lots 18 and 20. \$7,000.

Alicia M. Charlton of Charlemont, to Stephen W. Charlton, Jr., 10 Number Nine Road. \$1.00.

Joanne B. DeLisle of Greenfield to Robert B. DeLisle, 15 Brunelle Road. \$1.00.

Lorin S. Gowdy Estate, Margo A. Newton, individually and executor, to Laura Erica Gowdy, 34 Royer Road. \$1.00.

Alton M. Dunnell, Jr., of Keene, NH, to Robert J. Saquet of Brockton, Stetson Brothers Road (land also in Colrain). \$60,000.

Raymond E. and Barbara C. Dupre of South Hadley to Andre L. Cote and Carmen M. Roman of South Hadley, Mohawk Estates, Lots 14 to 17. \$75,000.

Roland S. and Mary E. Emery of Nanoose Bay, British Columbia, to Richard H. Emery of Deerfield, Avery Brook Road. \$1.00.

Gerard Ferguson to Gerard Ferguson and Margaret Barber, 13A Number Nine Road. No consideration.

Jeanne E. Giard of Colrain to Derek A. Giard of Colrain, Mohawk Estates, Lots 1 and 2, Block 4, Unit 3. \$1.00.

James D. and Sandra B. Haas to Kevin J. Haas of South Hadley, Mohawk Estates, Navajo Avenue, Lots 24, 25, and 26. \$1.00.


Delores M. Hall of Heath to Gary William Courtney of Hampden, Mohawk Estates, 9 Deer Run Pass. \$1.00.

Alfred R. Hillman of Colrain to Alfred R. Hillman and Peter W. Hillman of Colrain, Sumner Stetson Road. \$1.00.

Russell Manz, administrator of the estate of Margaret A. Sykes (Ress), to Heidi Williams of Colrain, Robin Tower of Charlemont, and Russell Manz of Bernardston, 8 West Main Street. \$115,000.

Darryl McCloud to William and Maria Southers, Mohawk Estates, 1 Papoose Lake Drive. \$45,000

(*"Heath Deed Transfers"* continued on page 23)



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("Heath Deed Transfers" continued from page 22)

Raymond C. and Teresa C. Pettengill to Jon M. and Jane E. Severance, Route 8A and State Farm Road. \$10,000.

Ronald J. Rutstein of Williamstown to Paul M. and Catherine G. Reilly of South Boston, Manley Phelps Road. \$50,000.

Susan Kirk Semple of Cambridge, to William Kirk Semple of Cambridge, Colrain Brook Road. \$1.00.

Judith G. Singley and Gary R. Singley to Gary R. Singley, 78 Route 8A South and Route 8A. \$1.00.

Eunice Steininger to Jason R. Seery, Mohawk Estates, Shawnee Drive, Lot 9. \$3,000.

Mark Summers of Tolland, CT, to Gregory W. and Barbara A. Rode, Sadoga Road, Lot 18. \$9,000.

Margaret A. Sykes estate of Bernardston, Russell Manz, individually and administrator, Robin Tower of Charlemont, and Heidi Williams of Colrain, to Nathan Wynne and Tara H. Herzig of Ashfield, 8 West Main Street. \$115,000.

David A. and Phyllis E. Thane to Kenneth and Paula Thane of Heath, Brunelle Road. \$10,000.

Albert R. and Lillian Titus of Danvers, to Mark J. Miller of Brattleboro, VT, Mohawk Estates, Deer Run Path, Lots 17 and 18. \$6,500.

Roger J. Turcotte of Agawam, by attorney, George R. Turcotte and Rita Aubin, attorneys, to Steven C. and Carla A. Rogers of Ayer, 13 East Brook Road. \$2,500.

Carol Wells of Monroe and Matthew Wells to Matthew Wells, 46 Rowe Road. \$1.00.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as trustee for Option One Mortgage Loan Trust 200-C Asset Backed Certificates, Series 2000-C. of Irvine, CA, to Matthew Wells and Carol Wells of Rowe, 46 Rowe Road. \$135,000.

Sandra L. Wilkos of South Windsor, CT, to Mark F. Bousquet of Belchertown, Mohawk Estates, Lot 30. No consideration.

Sandra L. Wilkos to Mark F. Bousquet, Mohawk Estates, Cascade Drive, Lot 9. No consideration.

Louise G. York to Laurene L. York of Shelburne, Rowe Road and Dell Road (land also in Rowe). No consideration.

~ Compiled by *Pegge Howland*

Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Rain</u>
From May 11, 2006	6 ¼"
June	6- 8" (different parts of town)
Up to July 10	¾"

In this reporting period:

The first part of the summer has been on the muggy and very wet side.



Community Calendar

August 2006

August 05 - 5th Annual Benson Place Blueberry Jubilee, 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

August 07 - Community Forum to meet Deval Patrick, candidate for governor, Heath School, noon to 2:00 p.m.

August 17 - Senior luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

- Fair exhibits accepted between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m.

AUGUST 18, 19, 20 – HEATH FAIR

August 26 and 27 - Heath Historical Society's Fort Shirley Days

August 29 - **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**, early release at 12:45 p.m., no kindergarten

August 30 - School early release, 12:45 p.m., no kindergarten

August 31 - Full school day for grades 1-6, for kindergarten, half-day

September 2006

September 01 - Full school day for grades 1-6, for kindergarten, half day
- PTP Back-to-School Potluck, Heath School, 5:00 p.m.

September 04 - Labor Day

September 05 - Full day of school for all grades

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

September 08 - Preschool Story Hour begins, Heath Free Public Library 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

September 14 - Open House, Heath School, 7:00 p.m.

September 17 - Parks and Recreation Bicycle Ride, 10:00 a.m.

September 20 - School early release day, 12:45 a.m.

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

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~Susan Todd



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