



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

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Val Kaempfer

Val Kaempfer

Since moving here from Monroe, Connecticut, in 1987, the dust has never had a chance to settle under **Val Kaempfer's** feet. She has volunteered and actively served on so many committees and boards, and has been involved in so many town activities that she has truly become one of Heath's precious assets. Over the years, she served on the Community Hall Committee, first as a member, then as chair. She was also an active member of the Parks and Recreation Committee, and contributed greatly

as a member of the Community Hall Renovation Committee. She also served on the Planning Board and the Sawyer Hall Building Task Force. To this day, Val continues to contribute her experience, knowledge, and time, as chair of the Council on Aging, as chair of the Board of Assessors, and as Assessors' Clerk, as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, and as an election worker. In addition, she is very active in the Senior Center Meal Program and in the Brown Bag Program.

Val is a born leader. Her mind is always working solving problems and her memory is superb. As she herself will say, "I do my best thinking at night." Give Val a problem to solve and if she can't solve it on the spot, you can be sure that by the following morning, she will have come up with an answer.

Residing with her husband Bud on Deer Run Path in Mohawk Estates, Val has been a active member of Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association and a member of the Board of Directors. She has proven to be an integral part of the Association serving first as recording secretary, and presently as vice president. She has also as a liaison between MEPOA and the Town of Heath helping to create a better understanding between the town and the association.

Val's attention to detail, dedication, innovative ideas, hard work, and determination are all attributes that get the job done.....and done right!

Val Kaempfer, for your many, many contributions that make our Town a better place, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



You have a ton of energy. You're involved in helping the citizens of Heath in so many ways – assessing (although I hate it when my taxes go up), Senior Center, Council on Aging, grant writing, etc. Thank you for all you do.

~ Gloria Fisher

David Howland

The Town of Heath is very fortunate in the number of talented citizens who come forth to volunteer their time, energy, and expertise to keep us running on an even keel. Indeed, what would we do without them?

No one has given more than **Dave Howland**, and we are very pleased to honor him here.

Heath property owners since 1964, Dave and wife Pegge became permanent residents in 1978. He held positions at Amherst, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges, retiring in 1990.

In 1979, Dave became a founding member of the town's Finance Committee which he has served ever since, and as its chairman for many years, with time out as a three-term selectman.

We are all indebted to Dave for taking care of our financial well-being for years on end. A faithful contributor to the *Heath Herald*, by way of his many excellent articles he has been our guide through the financial maze of budgets, tax rates, overrides, debt exclusion, and legislation.. Ever thoughtful and persuasive, he has given us what we needed to know to make informed decisions.

In addition, he has been our voice on several committees including the County Advisory Board, the Heath Growth Task Force, the Heath Enterprise Council, the Mohawk Municipal Advisory Council, and of recent times, he has given many hours to the Mohawk Trail Regional District, lending his expertise to the many knotty problems facing us rising from the impact of increasing school budgets and reduced state aid.

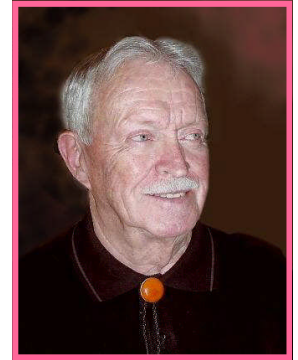
As an active member of the Heath Historical Society, he has served as a director and treasurer, keeping the society's finances in good order and enthusiastically supporting its many activities designed to keep Heath's historical heritage alive and well, not the least of which was his active involvement in the erection of the Solomon Temple Barn Museum on the Heath Fairgrounds, and upgrading Fort Shirley.

How can we ever thank you enough, Dave?



Your hard work for the Town throughout the years has made Heath financially stable and healthy. You're an inspiration. Thanks for teaching me about revenue forecasting.

~ Gloria Fisher



David Howland

To Our

Special Valentines

Heath Herald

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Copy Editor

Typographer

Business Manager

Advertising & Circulation

Coordinator

Technical Advisor

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Jane de Leeuw

Jan Carr

Jan Carr

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Henry Leuchtman

Bill Lattrell,

Pat Leuchtman, Sheila Litchfield,

Donald Purington,

Contributors

Lois Stetson Buchiane, Jack Cable, Janis Carr, Armand Clavette, Sue Crawford and the Preschoolers, Finance Committee, Gloria Fisher, Richard and Esther Gallup, Dave Gott, Heath Ladies Aid, Heath School Staff and Students, Heath Union Church, Ruth Johnson, Henry Leuchtman, Budge Litchfield, Timothy Lively, Teresa Peters, Pam Porter, Art Schwenger, The Selectboard, Dottie Sessions, Mike Smith, Newland Smith, 3rd, Doug Stetson, Alli Thane-Stetson, Hilma Sumner, Eileen Tougas, Del Viarengo, Ned Wolf

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

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Heath Union Church News

We had a well-attended candlelight service on Christmas Eve and have enjoyed another potluck dinner and family night in January.

On February 17, Pastor Phill Grant will give an illustrated talk on his recent Holy Land Tour. This will be a 5:00 p.m. in the Lower Level of the Church. All are welcome.

We are most thankful to be now handicapped-accessible at our facility. Thanks to Russ Donelson Builders for our new ramp.

The year 2008 has been designated by the Church as the Year of the Johnson Organ. We are starting a campaign to raise the necessary funds to restore this instrument. As this organ is probably the oldest built by Johnson being used weekly, it is a treasure worth maintaining not only for the congregation but as an historical item for Heath.

As always, our activities and hours are as follows:

Adult Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study, Thursday, 6:00 p.m., at Dot Sessions' home

The Pastor's office hours are Thursday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. He can be reached at 337-4019 or 413- 648-9077.

~ The Deacons

("Special Valentines" continued from page 1)



What a gal, that Val

She's so busy it makes me dizzy!

From sunup to sundown, she's working hard for our Town.

We're so lucky that she's so plucky.

What a gal, that Val!

Thanks, Val, for all you do.

Tom, Brian, and Sheila (Heath Selectboard)



Val Kaempfer was an original Mohawk Estates owner, one of its first Directors, and has continued to serve on the Board in several capacities ever since. Val is a strong spokesperson and has been very valuable to Mohawk Estates as she has been to the Town of Heath. Through the years, she has been a mediator between the two, always striving for a peaceful solution to problems.

She is a tremendous woman who loves to live and help everyone she can. We all care deeply for Val and hope to have her around for many years.

~ Armand Clavette President,
Mohawk Estates Association



("Special Valentines" continued on page 3)

("Special Valentines" continued from page 2)

A "Val"entine

I've known Val Kaempfer since we worked together on the Planning Board more than a decade ago. Val's contributions to the civic life of the town and Mohawk Estates have seemed to be boundless: the Hall Committee, the Council on Aging, the Mohawk Estates Board, the Board of Assessors, to name a few. When she sees a need, she rolls up her sleeves and gets to work, with enthusiasm and without complaint. As far as I'm concerned, Val Kaempfer sets the example of what a good citizen of this town and nation should be. I hope some of the younger residents here are paying attention.

Val is an outgoing, accepting soul. Her non-judgmental encyclopedic knowledge of the denizens of Heath has been most helpful during our tenure together as assessors. On these Boards, Val has always spoken her mind honestly, but graciously. We certainly haven't always agreed on a path, but I can only hope that I've been as patient and open-minded with her ideas as she has been with mine. Val – it's always been a pleasure.

~ Henry Leuchtman



"When the going gets tough, the tough get going." I doubt if she was ever a Marine, but this same sentiment certainly applies to Val and her dedication to service in our town. If there is a job to do that no one else wants, Val is there saying, "Well, somebody has to do it!" And if Val is doing it, you know it will get done. Val, it is reassuring whenever you are on a task and it is a privilege to work with you, no matter what hat you are wearing. With deep appreciation for what a wonderful person you are.

~ Hilma Sumner



I am proud to say that I have been blessed with Val as a friend since my husband George and I moved to Heath almost twenty years ago. It didn't take long for Val to get involved in town activities, nor did it take much time for Val, because of her enthusiasm, (and a bit of convincing), to get me to follow suit.

Val has been there with me through thick and thin, always ready to lend a hand and faithfully there to support, encourage, advise, and comfort me when needed the most. Over the years, we have served on many committees together and have gotten to know each other so well that we are able to work in harmony, and, in general, can accomplish the task at hand with ease and assurance.

Our friendship is a treasure I value deeply.

~ Eileen Tougas



Val Kaempfer is a good friend, fun, helpful, and much too busy. She works on so many committees she makes my head spin and does a thorough job on all of them.

I particularly enjoy working together at the Senior Center where we plan and cook together. I might mention that she also organizes some great lunches for our group. Bless you, Val. We are richer for knowing you.

~ Alli Thane-Stetson

Dave Howland

Cherry sheet, Cherry sheet, what's all this?
Chapter 70; free cash or levy limits?
Capital expenses, stabilization, shortfalls or gains
It's because of Dave Howland we're not getting migraines!

Thanks, Dave, for all you do.

~ Tom, Brian, and Sheila (Heath Selectboard)



Dave has guided the Town through the budget morass every year with a sharp mind and steady hand for as long as Cal and I have been in Heath. I am in awe of his ability to intuit the numbers as they apply to any and all situations. He just knows those bottom lines in his bones. And fortunately for us, he is able to present them in terms we can ALL understand, usually flavored with a hint of his self-deprecating humor. This is not to minimize the hundreds, if not thousands, of hours of Dave has spent researching various town issues. Thank you, Dave, we are forever indebted to you.

~ Janis Carr



Dave H.

Gentle giant
Money maestro
Tireless trooper
Friend, indeed

It's an honor to know you, Dave.

~ Dave Gott

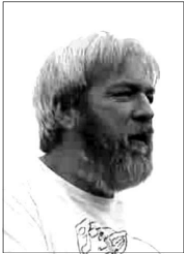


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Whether to Boston on behalf of the Town
Or just to the Heath Historical Society meeting
Whether to Mohawk Municipal Advisory Committee
Selectmen or Finance Committee
This car serves Heath well
A true Heath Valentine
We love you Dave Howland!

~ Art Schwenger



("Special Valentines" continued on page 22)

Wild Ramblings**A Fine Day, Indeed**

By Bill Lattrell

It is an early January day at about 8:30 in the morning and the temperature is climbing. I am just a little frustrated as I try to jam the small metal bar on the bottom of my Nordic ski boot into the locking mechanism on my backcountry skis. On a good day I can slide right into the ski bindings, but for some unknown reason they do not like warm temperatures and getting them to lock is always a chore. Those who know me well will tell you that there are days when I am not as patient as I should be, and this is one of them. Finally, the second ski boot snaps into the binding, and I can slide off down the snowmobile trail into the woods. A late morning storm is forecast for this day and I want to get a few miles in while the getting is good!

As I glide along there is a horse pasture to my right-hand side where two Appaloosa horses are dining on a recently placed pile of hay. Their mottled black on white coat appears as camouflage against the snowy field, and they only glance my way briefly as I ski on by. The trail ahead is wooded for quite a ways, and I look forward to the quiet solitude. I learned long ago that most snowmobilers are not early morning people, and I anticipate a quiet journey along this often well-used route.

The branches are still weighted down with snow from the last storm. Dobs of snow cling to the spruce branches and appear as little islands on the branch tips. I have to dodge some of the lower branches at head height along the route. The skiing is fairly fast today, and I realize that time will not be much of an issue so I slow my pace. I don't mind going slow, it allows me to think and ski at the same time.

I notice snowshoe hare tracks crossing the trail where the spruce branches are low and thick. I also notice some fox tracks only a few feet further away, running parallel to the hare tracks. On another day, and with snowshoes, I might investigate this situation, but today I am here for the ski and I do not want to get sidetracked. I consider the outcome of *The Fox and the Hare* and I'm guessing it didn't turn out too well for the rabbit.

Not too far down the trail there are deer tracks. The tracks are following a section of Kinsman Brook that is narrow, sinuous, and works hard to find its way through a forested swamp. Deer tracks are scarce this time of year. Most deer have headed downhill to areas with less snow and easier navigation. I like this particular deer; he seems stubborn and not willing to follow the crowd or easy course. Like me he seems to enjoy swimming upstream. He will not travel too far or too fast in this deep snow. Energy conservation is the name of survival for these large mammals, and I'm thinking he knows a hemlock grove nearby where the snow is shallow and the food adequate.

Ahead there is a large hay field that leads to a long stretch of power line corridor. The electrical transmission line, seen as a landscape blight by some, is actually a veritable wildlife sanctuary. Hundreds of fruit and nut bearing shrubs found on the power line will yield food well into the winter for birds, coyotes, fox, rabbits, and their predators. The edge between the surrounding forest and field and the shrubby corridor provide shelter, cover, escape habitat, and nesting habitat for many area wildlife species. This power line has a wide access road that bisects the right of way and makes for a good snowmobile and ski trail. It is full of ups and downs and, as such, provides me with ample opportunity to herringbone up steep slopes, and glide (slowly) down steep hills. There are too many animal tracks to count, but I am impressed with the great numbers of coyote and fox tracks that I see on this day.

A few snow flakes are starting to fall from the darkening sky, and the wind is blowing from the northwest. I am not quite halfway done on my route so I continue on.

I come to a section where the snowmobile trail continues in a direction that I do not wish to travel. There is a snow covered trail to the south that circles around back to the trail on which I began my journey. I am initially surprised by the difficulty of moving through the un-groomed snow. Now I must switch tactics as I become a cross-country walker rather than a cross-country skier. Nordic skis, like snowshoes, will keep you, more or less, on top of the snow, but don't expect to travel too quickly in the deep snow cover. This really slows my pace, and allows me to appreciate my surroundings. I am travelling through a mixed deciduous/conifer forest. The leafless hardwood branches allow all of the snow to reach the ground, and here I travel slowly. When I encounter conifers and the thick needle cover that does not allow all of the snow to reach the ground, my pace is much faster. I come across a very wet area that is not yet frozen. I know better than to get my skis wet. Wet skis equal skis with a thousand pounds of snow stuck to them. Wet skis equal a long walk out. I take off my skis and hop from hummock to hummock with the skis and poles balanced on my right shoulder until I find the dry hardwoods about 100 feet down the trail. Surprisingly my skis snap right back into their bindings and I do not have to concern myself with my lack of patience with mechanical objects.

("A Fine Day, Indeed" continued on page 15)

Lucinda Deborah Sumner

Editors Note: We are very pleased to include this wonderful memory, written by Grace Gleason Landstrom, probably in the 1970s, of her grandmother, Lucinda Deborah Sumner, to honor our foremothers and in celebration of Women's History Month (March).

My grandmother, Lucinda Deborah Sumner, was born on May 30, 1829, and lived to be ninety-eight years. Her father was Levi Sumner who came from Whitingham, Vermont, to North Heath when she was around two years old. He built the present house, now owned by Mrs. Gilbert Wilson (now owned by Eric and Mary Sumner) It is a lovely old house with fireplaces in the main house. A new ell was built many years ago so the new part was modernized around 1915.

But my grandmother told me of baking her first cake in front of a fireplace. Her father and mother were away for the day visiting friends. So she decided to surprise them and bake a cake and she had used some of their white store sugar. Her mother praised her for the very nice cake and the family enjoyed it. So the next time her mother was away she made another cake, but this time her mother scolded her for using the sugar as that was kept for company. They used maple syrup, molasses or honey for family use.

When Grandma was married at eighteen years, she wanted new material for her wedding clothes. So she asked her parents if she could go to Hadenville (Haydenville) to work in a factory to earn some money to buy material. So she drove a horse to Hadenville and earned enough for her clothes and Hope chest. For in those days a girl must have sheets, towels, table linen, etc. all ready before she married. Everything was sewed by hand, sewing machines were not available until much later.

Her father was a prosperous farmer, a good provider for his family but no one had much money to spend. A neighbor used to drive his oxen to Boston to sell produce for anyone who had anything to sell – butter, candles, ham, soap, wool, etc. It took a week to go and come from Heath to Boston.

Grandma was married to Edmond Gleason, a near neighbor and lived about a mile from her home. She had two sons, Clarence and Fred. Clarence never married but Fred married Della May Stetson and had five children, Ray, Belle, Pearl, Grace, and Frank. Grandpa Gleason died when Ray was a baby. He had T.B. or Consumption, as it was called in those days. So none of the children knew him but our grandmother was an important part of our lives.

She and Uncle Clarence bought a small house at Heath Center (recently owned by Andy and Edith Royer) They had land enough to keep a couple of cows and had chickens too.

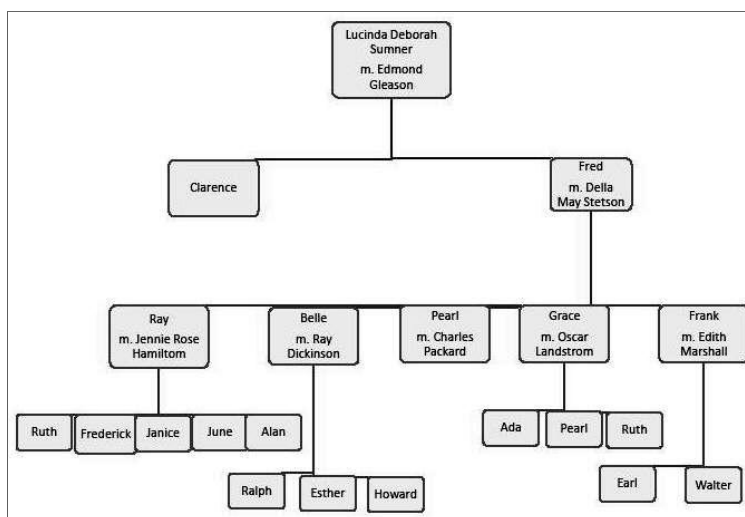
Grandma made butter and furnished our family and some neighbors. She sewed beautifully and had one of the first sewing machines. So she made dresses, slips, panties etc. for the girls and shirts for the boys.

Every school vacation we took turns a week at a time staying with Grandma and Uncle Clarence. He loved to recite poetry to me as it was a real hobby for him. Some that he knew were sad and some almost frightening. He sang old songs too.

Grandma liked to take us to visit her sister, Aunt Melissa who lived nearby. Such a difference in the two sisters – Grandma was very active and Aunt M. was always in a rocking chair, knitting, but I always think of her in her rocking chair though she was much younger than Grandma. Grandmother walked from her home to her son's home in North Heath on her eightieth birthday, about three miles. She always took us to Church and Sunday School and visits to her many friends.

She sent us to the store and post office, only a few houses away every day and would slip a nickel to us to buy candy – usually

lemon drops as she liked those, too. Gum hadn't yet come out but store cookies (had). A few kinds were tempting so sometimes we bought those. At home we had begun to have cooked cereals – oatmeal and cornmeal. But at Grandma's we always had meat and potatoes and pie, apple, mince and squash, for breakfast. It was while visiting Grandma that I spent a day at my Aunt's across the road. There I had cold cereal flakes of dried corn called Farce almost



like the cornflakes today.

Grandma really had a great love for Belle, the oldest girl, though she was good to all of us.

Our mother had a stroke in her early forties and couldn't sew for us as her left arm was paralyzed and she couldn't walk without a crutch. So Grandma and two aunts on my mother's side of the family really kept us in clothes as well as taking us on visits to other relatives.

We had hired girls at home, some very good and others (who) didn't appreciate our big family – so much cooking and washing. But Grandma did so much for us and she said once, "Your mother couldn't have been better if she had been my own daughter. I love her." So we fared well but without Grandma Gleason it wouldn't have been so good.

Our grandmother on mother's side died at 56 years, and I was only five years when she died. So I don't remember much about her, except at her funeral I cried – because everybody else was crying – and a cousin picked me up and wiped my tears with a black bordered handkerchief (which was usual at that time, though I had never seen one.)

("Lucinda Deborah Sumner" continued on page 19)

*Green Thoughts***Reading Season**

By Pat Leuchtman

The gardening year is filled with seasons, planting season, strawberry season, tomato season, harvest season, and cleanup season. For me, as a reader, winter is the reading season.

Every gardener needs a library that includes a general reference book or two. I have my trusty *Rodale Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening* which I turn to frequently for all kinds of reasons. I often forget the difference between the P and the K in fertilizer formulas or when talking about the nutritional needs of plants. K stands for potassium or potash as in granite dust and greensand, and P stands for phosphorous as in phosphate rock. You would think I would have those two elements straight after 40 years, but alas, it is not so. Of course, this encyclopedia it is full of information about every kind of plant, bug, fertilizer, pruning practice, etcetera etcetera, etcetera. It is a great general reference. I also have my *Wyman's Encyclopedia* which is heavier on flowers and ornamentals so I am pretty well covered.

Gardeners always need books about their special passion. For some people it is hostas, or peonies or rhododendrons. For me, it is roses. I have books on rose varieties, rose cultivation, and beautiful photographs of roses. One of my favorite books is *Roses: A Celebration* edited by Wayne Winterrowd who lives over the hill in Readsboro in a fabulous garden. His book collects 33 gardeners writing about their favorite rose. Although many of the writers laud a rose that I cannot grow in Heath, it is always fun to share another's enthusiasm.

I was pleased and surprised that the famed plant hunter and former owner of the noted nursery Heronswood, Daniel Hinckley, chose the hardy and familiar *Rosa rugosa* as his favorite. His prose is snappy and witty and yet as lush as a romantic like me could wish. "If I were prone to embellishment, I might say that it is not enough to grow and admire rugosa roses and occasionally behead one for a vase. The redolence of any rose is a sensation we wish to wallow in, like the sappy, unlikely scenarios of a romantic comedy that ends happily. Elegant and elemental, the scent of *Rosa rugosa*'s flowers is no exception."

Then there are serious books that are informational but also delightful reads. The new *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in our Gardens* by Douglas W. Tallamy is such a book. Dr. Tallamy is Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. Although Tallamy is reaching out to suburban gardeners he clearly explains the operation of the intricate food web that supports the insects, birds, toads and all the other animals in a region. With the evidence of the damage done by invasives like purple loosestrife and bittersweet clear in our own neighborhoods, and the damage done by imported pests like the wooly adelgid that is decimating our hemlock forests making the news, it is clear that this on the importance of native plants is an especially timely book.

It looks serious and is full of Latin names, but every page is fascinating - and accessible, as he tells stories from his own experience on his own landscape.

I am a book lover, and I cannot ever imagine not having a book to read. Preferably lots of books to read! However, I have been happy to discover a whole new world of garden reading - on the Internet. Most of us are familiar with Web sites where we can go for various kinds of information. Many plant and garden organizations like the American Horticultural Society (www.ahs.org), the Massachusetts Horticultural Society (www.masshort.org) and the New England Wildflower Society (www.newfs.org) have lots of information for anyone to tap into. Some have information for the public, but extra information and resources for members.

Recently I found Dave's Garden (www.davesgarden.com) which is an enormous site with over 344,000 subscribers. Lots of information is there for the general public, but you can also subscribe for a year for \$19.95 and gain access to all kinds of forums. There is a treasure trove of information from people who have your special passion and experience with your plants and problems.

Subscription Web sites are something new for me, but when I think that for the price of a magazine subscription I will essentially have a huge horticultural encyclopedia right at hand, I think it is money well spent.

And the forums at Dave's Garden bring me to blogs. The word blog is shorthand for a Web log, or an online journal. Some people keep these for their own pleasure and delectation of their friends. Some are created by businesses and organizations who want to communicate with their customers. Some are by passionate individuals.

Blogs are about conversation. The owner of the blog writes a 'posting' and then the readers can respond or 'comment' and there can be comments on the comments, making this an ongoing conversation.

Bloggers write out of their own experience and they are opinionated and sometimes witty. One of my favorites is www.gardenrant.com on which four ladies talk about all aspects of gardening, plants, the environment, and anything that they want to rant or rave about. They are passionate and funny and I love checking them out every day or two.

I have been so inspired that I now have a garden blog of my own. You can find it at www.commonweeder.blogspot.com. I post every couple of days. You might think it is hard to write about gardens in mid-winter, but there is always something. On my blog you will find links to garden organizations and nurseries, and to other blogs. One thing just leads to another in the blog world.

Those of you who read my "Between the Rows" garden columns in the *Greenfield Recorder* can now go to www.Commonweeder.com Web site to find my work.. The Web site is very much a work in progress. If you have suggestions you can write to me at commonweeder@gmail.com. I'd love to hear from you.

VOTE



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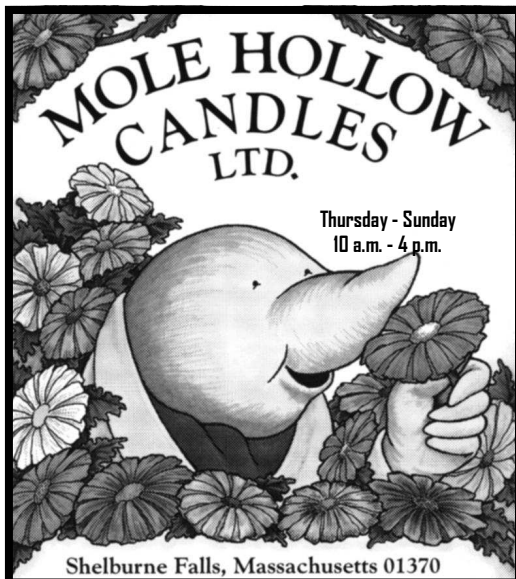
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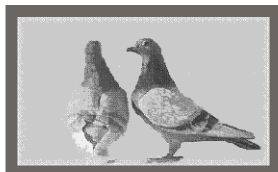


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A Report from Owl Hill Loft, North Heath – Part 2

On the first Saturday in December, David Thane, a fellow pigeon fancier, Esther, and I attended the Sturbridge Winter Classic Pigeon Show. This was an eye-opener. Our world of pigeons had been confined to the racing type, the 'Homers.' Here were Pouters, Kings, Grunts, German Toys, Tumblers, Larks, Dragons, and many more. It is estimated that there are more than 20,000 fanciers in America today. In Sturbridge, there were more than a dozen different clubs showing their birds and grading them. I overheard one judge say that if it hadn't been for this smallish black spot behind the bird's ear, it would have been a winner. Competition is keen for all are out to raise the winning bird.

Back at Owl Hill the daily concerns never end. Nutrition and health care are paramount. Every fancier has their own feeding formula. Racing Homers eat a variety of seeds and grains but should never be fed cracked corn. The sharp edges of the broken grains may scratch the mucous linings of the birds' throat, thereby setting up sites for the disease called canker. Pigeons prefer whole grains. A huge mistake is to feed too much. Rule of thumb: feed the birds only as much as they will clean up in 10 minutes. When they are feeding youngsters, increase their ration and give them all they require. Birds returning home from a long exercise or a race will consume more, and birds require more food in cold winter months than in hot summer. There is a constant need for adjustment. Grit, a mixture of crushed quartz, granite, oyster shells, charcoal, salt, and trace minerals, is important, a necessity for birds to grind up their food.

When two pigeons court, they link beaks in a manner that looks a lot like kissing. The birds actually are exchanging food. The female places her beak inside the male's beak to signal she accepts the male. When pigeons mate, they mate for life. The parents share domestic duties and spend an equal amount of time sitting on the eggs and feeding the young. Both sexes produce a milk-like substance in their throat, or crop, that they feed to their newborns. Interestingly, while all other birds collect water in their beaks and tip their heads back to drink, a pigeon sucks the water like a horse at a trough. A pigeon doesn't live in trees but prefers a flat spot. It will never abandon its nest, developing a keen sense of homing to ensure its return. It breeds enthusiastically in captivity and is naturally gregarious, enjoying the company of its own kind, even in close quarters. In the wild, a pigeon lives only three or four years, but in the relative safety of a loft, it can live over twenty years.

The early 2007 racing season, in the late spring, was for the old birds, and we started out pretty much as we had been doing before Eric the Redcheck's surprising victory. That is to say, in last place. Then came the Fultonville Race. We sent three birds: Whitey, one of Mary Ann's Blue Bars, and Eric. As the story unfolded, it seems the entire group of a hundred plus birds were caught in what Tim calls a SMASH. I am not sure exactly what a smash is but the birds become confused. Perhaps it's the many electronic devices and antennae in the crowded area. I'm told we won't fly from that spot

again. Whitey came back the following day, the Blue Bar never came back, and Eric didn't return until two months and one day later. Where he went we will never know, perhaps on a tour of New York, Ohio, or even into Canada. We asked him many times, but he never would say. Of course, birds occasionally are lost. In season, hawks and owls, and, once in a great while, gunners, take their toll, but this is to be expected. Needless to say, we were overjoyed to have him back, and even though Esther asked him many times where he had been, Eric would only say, "Coo, coo." He will race again this spring.

The 2007 New Bird racing season started in early September, and we decided to fly six birds each race. After a shorter training period (of course, all birds fly daily in good weather), we followed the same drill with the same results. Analyzing the problem, we felt it was maybe the "Breaking Point." This is the theoretical point where the bird must break away from the flock of racing birds in order to win the race. So I tried releasing a few birds from different locations instead of all from one point. This didn't seem to make much difference.

So it came down to the final race of the season, the Utica Race, the three-bird race, the money race. The whole deal goes like this. You enter three birds under your name, put up some cash, and the person whose three birds' total is highest wins. We entered our usual six birds, three in Esther's name, three, in mine.

As we gathered to band the birds, log them in, and synchronize our clocks, we were told about high winds and summer storms in the Utica area. It was decided to get as close to the area as reasonably possible to release the birds.

Sunday, October 14, was clear, 48 degrees, with a NW 5-10 mile wind. The birds were released from Amsterdam, and George from Whately (dark check band number 256) won with a speed of 1383,734 yards per minute. HOWEVER, Esther's three finished second, seventh, and thirteenth; my three finished third, fifth, and sixth. WE HAD WON ALL THE THREE-BIRD RACE MONEY, AND WE HAVE ANOTHER TROPHY!

~ Richard and Esther Gallup



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- Learn about working member opportunities for greater savings
- Get your questions answered
- Try product samples
- Opportunity to purchase items from inventory

RSVP Please to Sheila Litchfield 337-4957

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.

HEATH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

Local Harvest will be the theme of the 91st annual Heath Fair, which will take place this year on August 15, 16, and 17. Our goal is to showcase and support local agriculture, arts, and crafts in our exhibits, attractions, midway, and parade.

Planning Ahead

Looking out the window at the snow coming down, it may be hard to think about getting ready for the Heath Fair, but if you're hoping to bring home another blue ribbon for your collection, now is the time! There are lots of ways to do it. You could start ordering seeds for your vegetable and floral entries or start on that sewing or knitting project you mean to enter this year. You could be working on your portfolio so that when the time comes you have an array of photographs and other art projects from which to choose your entry. Your organization could begin planning its midway booth and thinking about an exhibit hall entry. Last year organizational entries were down. But these entries are a good opportunity to promote your organization's work and attract new participation. You could purchase an ad for the premium book. If you've never done this before, contact Carol-Anne Eldridge, 337-8425, for information. Of course, you could begin to think about your parade float. The theme suggests lots of possibilities. In case you are looking for entry ideas, last year's premium book is still on our Web site: www.Heathfair.org. Since we added several new categories last year, we aren't expecting to make any changes this year.

Getting Organized

At the January meeting of the Heath Agricultural Society we set up committees to help with the organizing of the Fair. If you would like to be more involved in shaping and organizing the Fair, or if you have some good ideas to share, get in touch with one of the contact people below and sign up for a committee.

Committee	Contact Person	
Buildings and Grounds	Christine O'Brien	337-4766
Tickets and Publicity	Gloria Fisher	337-6626
Exhibit Hall	Kim Richter	339-4293
Midway	Jenna Day	339-8321
Food Booths	Deb Porter	337-4715
Attractions	Pam Porter	337-5525
Agricultural Competitions	Shirley Tombs	625-2168

At this time we are particularly in need of people with computer expertise to help with our premium book layout and production. Contact Gloria Fisher if you can help. We are also seeking volunteers to help organize and manage the upper food booth.

Will There Be Fireworks?

At our March Fair meeting the Fair Attractions Committee will make a recommendation concerning whether to continue fireworks. We'd be interested in hearing people's opinions about this. There are both pros and cons to consider. Fireworks are a traditional part of the fair. They make a great climax to Saturday night or a great opening for the Fair on Friday night. They do attract people who love them and many people love them. On the other hand, they are costly and the \$3000 we spend on them buys less of a display every year. That amount of money could buy us some other great attractions that might equal or excel the fireworks in drawing power and fun, for example, a giant puppet making tent or a dog agility show. If you feel strongly one way or another, let us hear from you at info@heathfair.org.

Finally, we hope you will continue to show your love of the Fair by finding ways to be involved all year-round. Last year we showed people we could bring the Fair back. This year we have to prove we meant it. The next Fair meeting will be on February 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the Heath School.

~ Pam Porter and Gloria Fisher, Co-Presidents



Heath Grange, Part 2

In the last issue of the *Heath Herald*, we looked at the history of the National Grange. Now, we shall attempt to remember the functions and the workings of the local subordinate, Heath Grange #227.

My recollections of the Heath Grange begin sometime in the late 1930s, probably about 1938. During that period, the population of Heath was made up almost entirely of farmers. The Grange fitted nicely into farm families' social life because meetings took place in the evening hours when farmers and their wives were able to socialize with other families.

The local grange was the 4th degree of the National Grange structure. The 5th degree was the Pomona Grange which was made up of several local (or subordinate) granges,

the 6th degree being the State Grange and the 7th, the National.

Heath Grange #227 met twice a month in Sawyer Hall to discuss issues and ideas with an eye to local civic improvement. The Grange has always been interested in local education as well as functioning in the governing of the town, without being involved politically.

As a personal remembrance, it was a good time of learning to be interested in not only the offices of the Grange, but also of good training to stand on your own feet and to take responsive leadership in local government.

The Grange was, and still is, an organization that has no gender barriers. The offices in the local grange have always had special chairs in the ritual for women as well as men.

The local granges started to lose membership during World War II, as the young members left to serve in the armed forces. The demand for defense workers at home also was a factor in the decline of the grange in rural towns. Shelburne and Greenfield are the closest subordinate granges still in this area.

The Grange was at its best before television came on the scene. Neighbors gathered together to exchange news, discuss farming, and just visit. The Lecturers' duty was to arrange programs. We enjoyed music and good speakers and put on plays and played games. We visited other granges and they in turn came to see us, and we met many friendly folk from around the area. We had potlucks and mystery rides. We heard about others in need and organized work bees and wood bees. Then came the time when members had to hurry home to watch television. One program I remember was "The Beverly Hillbillies" which took our place. And so the Grange in Heath began to die, leaving us with many fond memories.

The last elected officers recorded for the years 1978-1979 were as follows:

Master, Peter Smith
 Secretary, Mildred Crowningshield
 Overseer, Kenneth Crowningshield
 Gatekeeper, Francis Galipo
 Lecturer, Robert Shields
 Ceres, Phyllis Crowningshield
 Steward, May Churchill
 Pomona, Brenda Clark
 Assistant Steward, Grace Crowningshield
 Flora, Teresa Peters
 Chaplain, Edith Royer
 Executive Committee: Andy Royer
 Treasurer, Esther Crowningshield
 the Reverend Kenneth Stevens
 Nora Galipo

I am sure that many older Heath residents have fond memories of "Heath Grange Patrons of Husbandry" #227. The wonderful fellowship of rural communities is not to be found today. I believe the change in community spirit and involvement in local activities started after these special organizations ceased to exist.

~ Douglas Stetson

Special thanks to Fred Crowningshield for supplying the list of the last elected officers of Heath Grange. DS



Letter to the Editors

I don't know if you remember my parents, Newland and Caroline Smith. I still subscribe to the *Heath Herald* as it is my main source of information about Heath and am very thankful that you and other people in Heath continue to produce a wonderful newspaper. As one who has been to the Holy Land eleven times since 1983, I have a short letter in response to Pastor Phill Grant's piece in the most recent issue (*Heath Herald*, Dec. 2007/Jan. 2008).

Some Impressions of the Holy Land

In my most recent visit to the Holy Land in October 2005, I saw the "newly built cement wall" that surrounds Bethlehem. This separation barrier being built by Israel in the name of security separates Bethlehem from Jerusalem and the West Bank. This barrier/wall around Bethlehem with watchtowers, sniper ports, a ditch, barbed wire, security perimeters, surveillance cameras, and electronic warning devices is twenty-seven feet high. The International Court of Justice has ruled that it is illegal because large parts of it are being built in the Occupied Territory of East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Newland F. Smith, 3rd
 Seabury-Western Theological Seminary
 Evanston, IL

Revaluation and Fallibility

At our last meeting, the Assessors received a request from the Selectboard asking us to write an article in these pages “explaining the tax reval process, estimated taxes, etc...” I was thinking of blabbing on anyway, so was willing to do so.

This year’s reval has been a bit of a marathon. The tax bills that you have received are called “estimated third-quarter” bills and, like the ones you got last summer, are based on last year’s tax. The reason is that we are not finished with the reval and have not set a tax rate for FY’08. We are still working with the State Department of Revenue (DOR) on setting the rate, so we requested permission from their director to send these estimated bills to keep the river of cash flowing. The disadvantage to this approach is that if your taxes go up for ’08 (and, for most of the town, they will), the entire difference will be reflected in the last quarter “real” bill you get in May.

So why late? You may recall that the Selectboard and Finance Committee suggested passing over about half of the expenditures at our last Annual Town Meeting (in early May) until a reconvened meeting in late June. As the funds for the reval expenses were passed over, that killed almost two months (consultants won’t work without a contract). You may also recall that, at the May 2006 town meeting (for FY’07), the Assessors recommended starting a two-year process of having a consultant inspect all houses in town (a process we thought would cost about \$20,000), thereby spreading the expense over two years. The Town rejected that idea, so we had no head start. We appreciate that the Town did vote in enough funds (at ATM 2007) to have an outside appraiser, Steve Marston, inspect some houses in town. This was done on our suggestion (it was not required by the DOR) and I’ll speak some more about this later in this article. Steve’s work took about five months to complete. This put us past the deadline for sending “real” bills at Christmas, as we traditionally do, hence the estimate bills.

Also, this year, the DOR has been very exacting in a number of areas where they have, as long as I’ve been on this Board, never bothered to go. They have objected to some paperwork that has not been properly maintained by the Board over the years and must be rectified before they will “certify” a tax rate for us. These are purely bureaucratic matters that have nothing to do with the tax rate, yet are preventing the rate from being set.

I hope that satisfies the Selectboard. Speaking of which, as assessors are elected by the town, we operate independently of the Selectboard – in fact, we have no truck with them, with the one exception of requesting, annually, that they hold a hearing to see if the Town wants a “split” tax rate (commercial/ residential). We do not report to the them. They should understand that, and you, as a resident, should understand that.

Recently, you may have read in the paper about assessors in Ashfield running afoul of the DOR in some of their actions. In my opinion, the things they did were, for the most part, legally within their jurisdiction, but were done in an improper manner. Like many of us older types who’ve been out “west” here for a while, the Ashfield Board seemed to take a “we don’t care what Boston says” attitude. Well, the problem is that, each year it seems, the DOR is inveigling itself more and more into the local assessment process and can, as Ashfield has seen, stop the whole show. I was, however, stunned when the DOR, among other things, suggested to the

Ashfield citizenry that it consider having the Selectboard appoint assessors. To their credit (in my mind), the townspeople of Ashfield voted that notion down.

Massachusetts, having a long and valued tradition of corruption, has, in the past, suffered from a slightly too cozy relationship between those elected to represent the people and those who assess taxes on them. Yes, the Town could have the Selectboard appoint assessors. For that matter, I think selectpersons can even *be* assessors (as they can be, and have been in the past, the Board of Health), but is it healthy?

Having some distance between these boards, to my view, discourages undue pressure by some influential taxpayers. It would be unethical, or even possibly illegal, for instance, to have a selectperson use his or her position to intervene on the part of a taxpayer in, say, an ongoing abatement process. On the other hand, I’ve heard rumor that some people think that the Assessors, in our town and others, are out to “stick it to the rich.”

We don’t assess people; we assess property.

Are we always fair? We strive to be but sometimes fail. I was recruited to the Board in 1996 as a vacancy came up and it was the first year the Board was using a computer to do its work. Don Dekker, known Luddite and now assessor-emeritus, knew that I was somewhat familiar with those machines and invited me to run. I quickly realized that the software we use (developed by the State) was somewhat “user-hostile,” if you can say that, and tried to learn as much as I could about its ins and outs. I (we) were not aware of the impact of one particular aspect of the software, (due to lack of training and little help from our then reval-consultant): something that affected depreciation – I will not kill you with the details. The long and short of it was that newer and recently renovated houses were assessed at market value, but the owners of some older, unrenovated, larger houses got an unfair break as their structures were depreciated too heavily.

It wasn’t because the property owners were poor or rich, it was an error on the part of the Board, and, more specifically, on the part of the resident computer “expert,” yours truly. *I made a mistake*, although, in fairness to me, the software is not ideal. To rectify the situation, with the help of Steve and Duane Adams, our reval consultant, we’ve developed a consistent schedule of depreciation and feel pretty comfortable about it. Some homeowners, however, are going to see a substantial increase in their assessed value when they get their bill in May. Again, those properties had been under-assessed for a number of years, so those taxpayers, in fact, have gotten a break.

In analyzing the data for the “interim” revals in the past two years (comparing actual sales prices to assessed value), I’ve seen another pattern attributable to the vagaries of the software: the over-valuation of “camps” and very modest homes. These are often structures that lack utilities or plumbing. They haven’t, generally, been selling for as much as we have had them assessed. Given the limitations of the state software, the fix for this will most likely require purchasing a totally different program. The bottom line, on this problem, is that, for a few years, owners of some of the most modest properties in town have actually been subsidizing those of us with larger, more valuable homes. Some might draw an analogy to the federal income tax changes implemented recently.

(“Revaluation and Fallibility” continued on page 15)



Heath Winter Roads

Have you been wondering how it is that the paved roads in Heath have been so free of ice and snow? Or perhaps you have been worrying that too much salt is being used because the roads are very white when dry. Or perhaps you've been out and about driving at one of those moments when the roads are still slushy and slippery, and wondered what is going on? The answers to these questions are all linked to a new process Heath is using to manage winter road conditions. Heath Highway Superintendent Mike Smith learned of the new methods to maintain the winter roads through a "Bay State Roads" class called "Salt, Sands and Liquids," sponsored last year through the Local Technical Assistance Program for Highway Departments. The instructor, Paul Brown, is also head of Mass Highway Department.

Mike was impressed by Paul's statements that Mass Highway reduced their use of salt in half in one year and discovered that the rust prohibitor in the salt mix significantly reduced the amount of highway vehicle damage. These facts convinced Mike to try an applicable product in Heath. This is the second winter Heath has used this product.

The mix we are using is a combination of rock salt, magnesium chloride, and an organic product as a rust inhibitor (which in the material Heath uses is molasses). The molasses turns the mix brown when you see it in the trucks, and provides a coating to prevent the salt from adhering to truck beds, underbellies of vehicles, etc. In Heath this year we have already seen a reduction in the amount of Highway Department vehicle repair, electrical component damage, and rust on beds, typically experienced from use of salt/sand mix.

The mix is applied differently than traditional sand/salt mix and there is a learning curve to determine the right time during or after a storm to apply it. The ground temperature and duration of the storm are key factors that impact when to apply it. When applied properly and at the right time and in the right quantity, the snow and ice melts much faster leaving a clean blacktop surface. Because of the rapid melting capabilities of the new salt mix, a driver could encounter a period of slushy travel after the salt is applied. This should only last an hour or two at the most before the roads are melted down to black pavement. Sand is used very sparingly if at all, with the exception to non-paved roads which still must be sanded. Because this new treatment melts ice and snow so effectively, if it were to be used on dirt roads it could make them too soft and muddy - therefore the best way to maintain dirt roads in the winter is to maintain a good base of hard-packed snow by plowing and sanding, not salting. We do not pretreat the roads intentionally, but apply it as part of standard road cleanup after a storm. As it happens though, once the material is on the road it acts as a pretreatment for a subsequent storm - and begins to melt the snow and ice much more rapidly than rock salt alone. The addition of the magnesium chloride in the salt mix changes the ice-melting characteristics and enables the rock salt to melt more ice per gallon of product used than if the rock salt were used alone, or if the more traditional calcium chloride were used.

Environmentally the use of this product has significant benefits as well. In general we find that less sand is applied that could get into waterways. The salt in the mix tends to adhere to the paved roads rather than being plowed up with the sand and needing to be reapplied. Once in the road surface the salt acts as a pretreatment, making it possibly unnecessary for the road crew to go out again and treat a subsequent small snowfall. So we could use less product in general than in the past, however this is dependent on the type and amount of snows in any winter. The product specs state the following:

- ICE B'GONE is safe to use around animals and humans. It does not affect skin, leather, clothing or carpets. No special handling equipment is required.
- ICE B'GONE is water soluble and biodegradable.
- ICE B'GONE reduces the levels of sodium and chloride ion exposure to wells, vegetation, surface water.
- ICE B'GONE eliminates the need for sand, a major source of phosphorus and PM-10 contamination.

It will be hard to compare one year to the next when assessing the cost benefits of this new product, given that we have seen quite a bit of snow and ice this season compared to recent years. However the specific changes in Heath that we are experiencing include:

1. No more sanding each time we plow (except on dirt roads)
2. Significant reduction in sand use (from 5000 tons to 1000 tons in 1 year)
3. Fewer trips out sanding between storms - which should reduce fuel use in a "normal" winter
4. A reduction in the time it takes for the roads to become safer for drivers
5. Reduced rust and corrosion on vehicles
6. Less time on vehicle maintenance - no "frozen" augers from salt damage
7. A reduction of salt/sand use from 92.5 tons per mile per year to 18 ½ tons per mile per year (last season's numbers).
8. The ability to ensure that our highway crew can rest and recover in the hours between midnight and 4:00 a.m. because we can usually plan better when they would need to be out during a storm - because much of the work of this salt mix is already at work on the roads once it is applied for a previous storm.

~ Sheila Litchfield and Mike Smith

Editors' Note – Also in honor of Women's History Month, we are very pleased to include Lois Stetson Buchiane's recent visit with Eva Pazmino – two of Heath's outstanding women!

Our Neighbor Eva Pazmino

On a sparkling early January morning I sat down with Eva in her home that is situated at the end of a long driveway just off Route 8A and #9 Road. She had been expecting me and seemed eager to talk about her life journey from Germany to Ecuador to Washington, D.C., to Vermont, and finally to Heath.

At age 90, Eva still has a sharp mind and a strong will that has little tolerance for those who abuse animals or those who expect the world owes them a living without working for it. And, as I listened to her story, I could well understand her attitude. She is a genuine survivor, having come through situations that most of us cannot begin to imagine.

Eva was born in Southern Bavaria in November, 1917, and was living in Frankfurt am Main with her parents when the Nazi occupational forces were planning to take over the city. Her father, a Jew and a physician, had received a warning at the eleventh hour. With only twenty-four hours notice, the family moved out of the city. Her mother, a native of Poland, and Eva with her father fled with only what they could carry, leaving behind his mother and other family members who were sent to a concentration camp and eventually were killed. This was in 1939. Eva's parents went to Switzerland and Eva to England to join a brother.

She had attended a school in Germany where she was being taught English but had fled before she graduated and thus had little command of the language at that time. Even though work for foreigners was hard to come by, Eva found employment on a country estate taking care of the gardens and the animals. Later a friend of her brother's gave her 400 English pounds and she sailed from Liverpool on an English steamer bound for South America via France, not knowing where her parents were or if they were able to get visas. But there they were waiting to board!

At that time, being expatriates, few countries would admit them, Ecuador and Bolivia being the only choices. They opted for Ecuador. The voyage took ten days and they landed at night and had to jump into small rowboats and wade to shore where they were taken by train to Quito, the country's capital. That government allowed immigrants to stay if they would cultivate a piece of land in the jungle, at least one third of that given to them, on a hilly section. (this information I obtained from an earlier interview and paper written by a GCC student)

The family set to work building a house, cutting timber with a machete, roofing it with vegetation that allowed for many insects and other pests to inhabit their space. Their hut had no water or electricity, and only planks for beds. Eva spoke of the lifestyle there as "the more you could cheat, the more positive it was; to be fat was an indication of beauty and success." If there was a tax in Ecuador, it was unenforceable.

Her father could not practice medicine in Ecuador but found a job working for a pharmaceutical company in Quito. Eva stayed at home with her mother, bought a cow, sold milk, and

built an earth oven in which she baked bread and sold it to truckers and passersby. The money she earned allowed her to build up the herd to eleven cattle in seven years.

Her husband, Luis, appeared out of the jungle one day with only a T-shirt on his back and a machete. He had no shoes and could not finish his trek to Quito. He had been sold as a slave for 50 cents. He found work in their bakery, and, in 1946, she and Luis were married. The same year, friends in Washington, D.C. sponsored Eva who then worked as a housekeeper for the family for \$100 a month. Eventually they were able to get her parents and dog into the United States.

But city life did not suit Eva. How she got a copy of the farm magazine, *The American Agriculturist*, I did not ask. But in one issue she saw an ad for an assistant herdsman in Wilmington, Vermont. She applied for the position and was hired as was Luis, to work in the kitchen. Not long after, the farm was sold, and Eva, determined to be a farmer, began looking around for a farm to buy. One day they happened to be on a narrow road and pulled into a driveway to turn around at the house they eventually bought from a man who didn't have the time or money to fix it up. The house, always known to me as Uncle Isaac Stetson's place, was where they settled – no furniture but livable. Eventually her parents moved in, too, and her father obtained a position as a psychiatrist at the Brattleboro Retreat.

This was in the late 1940s, and for the next twenty-five years, she and Luis reared five daughters and one son, working very hard raising dairy cattle and chickens, selling milk and eggs, and making maple syrup in the spring. In order to have enough hay to feed their cattle, they mowed hay on several farms in the area (including one belonging to my parents) and even into Vermont. My first recollection of Eva was when I was home from college in the late '40s; she was visiting my mother. I was impressed by her accent and the fact that she wore no shoes (to this day, she goes barefoot much of the time.)

To make ends meet and support their large growing family, Eva worked in the kitchen of the Skyline Restaurant on Route 9 in Vermont. For thirty years she traveled there on weekends and holidays, loving every minute of it, and the people loving her as well. She remembers her employer's motto, "You don't tell people what to do; you ask what they'd like to do."

In the early 1970s, after she and Luis divorced, she had the house built where she now lives. If you find yourself traveling between Greenfield and Heath and come upon a car moving at a rate of about twenty miles an hour, just be patient, the driver is Eva, and she will pull over and let you by when it is safe. She drives herself to the Visitor's Center in Greenfield where she works on Thursdays and Sundays.

We continued to chat for over an hour, interrupted only by the appearance of a man heading down her driveway, leading a shaggy donkey. "Oh," she says, "That's my neighbor. He does this often. I am going out and invite them both in!" I followed along and was introduced to "Nestor," the friendly beast. But they declined the invitation with thanks...She is, after all, an animal lover!

(*"Our Neighbor Eva Pazmino"* continued on page 15)

For the Birds

In late December, the preschool class decorated a tree for the birds. We made three kinds of "ornaments" with help from the SCA/Americorps members, Liz Smietana and Lindsay Kerns. We had bread cut into fancy shapes with cookie cutters that the children spread with peanut butter and pressed into a pan of bird-



seed. We also made short strings of cranberries, Cheerios, and bread cubes. Finally, we had slices of oranges with strings for hanging. Then we took them out to a little pine tree in the bus loop and hung them with our good wishes for the birds to

have a feast. As of this writing, it looks like the birds have eaten most of their treats. Here are some of the children's stories about our experiences.

Ostin – "I hung an orange on the tree for the birds to snack on. It was really cold outside."

Gavin – "I helped decorate a tree for the birds. I hung a bread moon with peanut butter and seeds. I think the birds are going to think the treats are yummy."

Charlotte – "I put an orange on the tree so the birds can eat. I hung more treats on the tree. The birds are going to have a lot to eat."

Sienna – "It was hard to hang the bird ornaments on the tree because my gloves were too big."

Madison – "I hung a Christmas tree bird food on the tree. The birds are going to be happy and eat the treats on the tree!"

Keemen – "I think the birds will like the tree because they like bread, seeds, and oranges."

Carlie – "First we took the bread and cut it. Then we spread peanut butter on it. The last thing is to put seeds on it. My friends and I hung the bread and oranges on the tree. I spy something orange on the tree!"

Julie – "I had fun feeding the birds. I made a moon with peanut butter dipped in seeds. I wore my earmuffs and gloves because there was lots of snow. I wanted Sue to hang an orange on the top of the tree."

Craig – "I was decorating the tree so the birds can eat. I can do it!"

Austin – "We decorated a Christmas tree for the birds. We hung ornaments so the birds can have some snacks."

Joshua – "I put a moon bird ornament on the tree. The birds will eat it because they are hungry."

Emilia – "I put decorations for the birds on the tree. It looked beautiful!"

Logan – "We had fun hanging bird treats on the tree. Look at all of them! The birds will eat the treats."

Magrady – "We used bread and peanut butter and birdseed to make the treats. I hung the bird treats on the tree. Many friends helped decorate our beautiful tree for the birds."

~ Suzanne Crawford and the Preschoolers

("Our Neighbor Eva Pazmino" continued from page 14)

Later, over tea, I remarked at the family photos on the table, and she pointed out the members by name, saying how proud she is of them and thankful she has them. As an afterthought she said her early years in Germany were a nightmare she should forget but should never forget. One brother, grandmother, and an uncle were exterminated. Another brother is a physician still living in Germany, and the brother in England died there of tuberculosis soon after she sailed for South America.

What a remarkable woman, a true survivor, animal lover, and humanitarian!

~ Lois Stetson Buchiane

(Editors Note: and an inveterate reader! Browsers in the stacks of the Heath Free Public Library cannot help but be impressed at the vast number of books whose pockets (before we went to numbers!) that bear Eva's name!)

("Revaluation and Fallibility" continued from page 12)

Well, as Jesus probably should have said: the rich will always be with us. The Board is correcting this matter.

Tax assessment, as Don would say, is an art, not a science. It has some quantifiable elements (how big a house is) and, put simply, some judgment calls (what condition a house is in). When the town elects an assessor, and that person takes the oath of office, there is a pact between them: they trust the new assessor to do the best and fairest job he or she can, and the assessor, literally, swears to be as fair as possible in making decisions. But, in the end, as the song goes, we're only mammals.

~Henry Leuchtman

("A Fine Day, Indeed" continued from page 4)

Ahead I see a lone raven. He sits on the very top of a white pine tree taking in the oncoming storm. The snow is now coming down at a modest pace and my vision of the bird is somewhat obscured. As I approach the raven he notices me and flies off making a croaking and clinking noise as only ravens can do! Ravens have a funny way of flying; their long wings sweep at the air pushing the large black bird along, and suddenly they do a half roll for no apparent reason, appearing as if they are falling from the sky before they resume the long strokes with their powerful wings. This particular raven does the half roll, and looks back over his shoulder. He croaks and clinks at me, seemingly scolding me for disturbing his moment of solitude, as he disappears into the snowy horizon.

I intersect the trail that would take me back to the road. The snow falling from the sky is serious now covering my tracks as quickly as I make them. As I approach the road I, once again, see the two Appaloosa horses; now on my left-hand side. They have finished with their gourmet meal and are rolling and frolicking on their backs in the snow. The smaller of the two jumps up when I get to my nearest point. She looks directly at me and snorts and shakes her head, the snow flying from her mane and steam spouting from her nostrils.

I believe she is agreeing that it is a fine day, indeed.

Good Neighbors Food Pantry

Good Neighbors has been active in our area for over 22 years providing supplemental food for local families. Currently we are able to support six food distributions annually and target these to ensure families have food when children are home during school vacations and holidays. We also aim to include presents and warm hats and mittens for children at the Christmas distribution. On an average we serve between 65-75 families or about 250 persons from the Rowe, Charlemont, Heath and Hawley area at each food distribution.

About eight years ago Good Neighbors became a member of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, which has helped quite a bit in our ability to serve our neighbors. Families are referred to Good Neighbors through pastors, school personnel, and by word of mouth, and occasionally persons arrive at a food pick-up evening unexpectedly, having heard of the resource through friends. We try to have food available for such unexpected needs and emergencies at all times.

Good Neighbors is comprised of neighbors from participating church communities, primarily Charlemont Federated Church, St. Joseph's/St. Christopher's, and Charlemont Bible Church, and from neighbors in the surrounding towns who donate money and/or time to "bag" the food. Children from Heath Elementary School come to sort donated canned goods, and food drives for Good Neighbors are held at Rowe School and Hawlemont. Food storage, bagging, and distribution occur at the Charlemont Federated Church.

Even though we have access to surplus foods through the Food Bank, because we intend to provide quality food, including produce, meat, and dairy products, we often need to purchase food to be certain we have enough for all our families. We continue to rely heavily upon financial donations that allow us to make these purchases.

Good Neighbors continues to provide an opportunity for community service and missions and outreach effort within our own community. People of all ages enjoy the process of together sorting and bagging food. Please feel free to call if you have questions, and please join us on the following "bagging" dates beginning at 4:30 pm at the Charlemont Federated Church: February 13, April 16, and July 9

~ Sheila and Budge Litchfield
(337-4957)

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Heath Historical Commission

Good News! The Heath Historical Commission is pleased to report that on November 17, 2007, a letter from Secretary of State William Frances Galvin informed us that our application had been approved by the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. which means that Heath Center Historic District is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A handsome certificate was sent to us also which will be framed and presented to the Town at a future date. Certificates will be given also to property owners. This listing will in no way affect taxes or place restrictions on properties within the District.

We hope you will share with us a sense of pride that our Town Center has been recognized in this way. This honor means that our Town Center District is listed automatically on the State Register of Historic Places, a program of the Massachusetts Historical Commission which works closely with our local Commission to try to meet the challenge of preserving the historic and archaeological heritage of Heath.

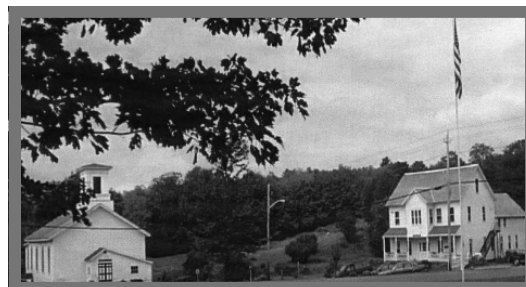
Our sincere thanks to all who have encouraged and helped us to achieve National and State recognition Listing on the State Register of Historic Places means that buildings and sites owned by the Town or by a nonprofit organization are eligible to apply for funding from Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) for the renovation and preservation of such buildings and sites. To date, well over 600 MPPF projects have been completed in the State with funding for roofing, masonry, carpentry, universal access, and stained glass and sculpture restoration. The Greenfield Public Library was a recipient of matching funds for restoration as well as three churches in Pittsfield and one in Amherst. The Hawley Meeting House also received MPPF funding for that restoration, to name just a few in western Massachusetts.

Recent articles about our Heath Center Historic District in the *Greenfield Recorder* and the *West County News* contained some misquotes and misinformation. Nonetheless, we were happy to have some publicity.

Our Commission intends to submit an article about historic preservation to the *Heath Herald* for every issue and perhaps to the other news media on a bi-monthly basis.

The Heath Historical Commission is made up of three to seven appointed members. At present we are fortunate to have seven members. However, we are permitted to have any number of advisors who can participate fully in our work but cannot vote or be counted as part of a quorum. If you are a history buff and like to do research and reporting, please join us. We need your input. Keep warm and well.

~ Del Viarengo, Chair



Heath Business Directory

Bald Mountain Pottery
625-8110

The Benson Place
Wild Blueberries & Blueberry Spread
337-5340

Fred Burrington
Artist
337-4302

Dave Cote Builders
Branch Hill Road
337-4705

Robert Delisle
Electrician
337-5716

Russell E. Donelson
Design/Construction/Cabinetry
337-4460

Jerry Ferguson
Home Improvement
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

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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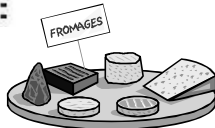
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It's Your Health and Safety

A Healthy Environment Starts at Home



By Sheila Litchfield, RN, BSN

Certified Occupational Health Nurse

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS are products used around the house that contain chemicals that are hazardous to human and animal health or the environment. Examples include cleaners, polishes, antifreeze, used motor oil, pesticides, batteries, paints, paint thinners, furniture strippers, and some personal grooming products. By definition, household hazardous products are consumer products that are toxic, corrosive, reactive, flammable, or explosive. Labels on a hazardous household product will contain the words caution, warning, or danger. The adverse human health effects from exposure to these products range from skin irritation and headaches, to respiratory ailments including asthma, to cancer, and in extreme cases, death. In addition to wearing personal protective equipment, many of these products should not be poured down drains, on the ground, buried in your yard, or thrown away in the garbage.

WHAT CAN YOU DO to make you household safer?

- 1 **SWITCH PRODUCTS.** Use nontoxic or less toxic products or make your own. With commercial, store-bought brands, look for NONTOXIC or CAUTION on the label, since they will be the least toxic. Avoid those labeled WARNING or DANGER. Carefully follow package directions.
- 2 **CHANGE YOUR HABITS.** For example, rather than applying pesticides to kill a few weeds, pull them up by hand. Clean spills up immediately instead of letting them dry which makes them more difficult to remove. If you must use a toxic product, buy only the amount you need, so there is none leftover to dispose of.
- 3 **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY.** Securely store any hazardous products in their original containers until you can bring them to the collection day(s) where they will be safely disposed of.

Product Facts:

- 1 **THE RISK OF CHILDHOOD LEUKEMIA** can increase sevenfold due to normal exposure to household garden pesticides according to a study by the National Cancer Institute.
- 2 **Between 3 to 10 GALLONS** of hazardous materials are found in the average American home at any moment.
- 3 **OVER 73 MILLION** pounds of pesticides are used in and around our homes each year.
- 4 **4 QUARTS** of used motor oil will contaminate a million gallons of drinking water.
- 5 **38 STATES** already have water contaminated by pesticides.
- 6 **OVER 79,000** preschool-aged children were poisoned in their homes by personal grooming/cosmetic products, such as nail polish or remover in 1999.
- 7 **ANOTHER 81,000** children were poisoned by household cleaning products.
- 8 **OVER 60** different chemical products are found in the average household.

Alternatives and Safe Uses

You can achieve a clean house without resorting to a multitude of hazardous chemicals by making your own simple, effective household cleaners, or purchasing less toxic brands. Less toxic cleaning products are made by companies such as Method, Ecover, Earth's Best, Seventh Generation, Bio Kleen, Dr. Bronners, Earth Friendly, and Earthrite. If you make homemade cleaning products, remember to label them and list your ingredients.

See green insert for handy guide

(*"Lucinda Deborah Sumner"* continued from page 5)

Grandma Gleason kept house for my uncle until she was over ninety years when she sold the house and went to North Heath to live with her son Fred and granddaughter. Aunt Pearl and my uncle (went) to live at my sister Belle Dickinson's on a farm near the center.

She fell and broke her hip at the age of 97 and was in bed until her death in January 1928 at the age of 98 years. Everyone who knew her loved and respected her. (She was)

the same to everyone and (was) always interested in new things. She lived from candlelight to kerosene lamps to electric lights, from fireplaces to cookstoves, from oxen, horse drawn machinery to tractors, trains to automobiles and airplanes. Through the Civil War, which took her brother Edward Sumner and World War I when many young friends were killed, too.

~ Submitted by *Ruth Landstrom Johnson*

Selectboard's Report

Meeting Schedule

The Board has resumed meeting every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall.

School Issues

The Heath School Focus Group will present its findings at the March 18 Selectboard meeting (rescheduled from December 3) that will be held at the Heath Elementary School at 7:00 p.m. The Heath School Focus Group (formerly known as the Out of District Alternatives) has worked very hard for months on developing models of an independent Heath Elementary School. Also on the agenda are reports by Heath's School Committee members on the status of school closings; by the Board on the findings of the other task forces; by Heath School Principal Anne Mislak on the state of education at Heath School, and by the Finance Committee on their recommendations on the feasibility of an independent Heath School.

The Board is currently discussing with the Finance Committee and our School Committee representatives a letter campaign to legislators regarding federal funding of mandated Special Education services.

Emergency Landing Zone

The Selectboard has been looking into the potential locations and uses of a Life Flight landing zone in Town. Our Emergency manager Tim Lively and Fire Chief Mike Smith have conducted the investigation and will make a report by the end of January. No decisions have been made on the current location at the Fairgrounds. A letter expressing support for the current location has been received from the Heath Firefighters Association.

Fire Department Inspection Fees

The Fire Department will increase fees for inspections of smoke detectors/CO, oil burners, and oil and propane storage from \$10.00 to \$25.00. The Board has approved the increase.

Appointments

The Board has appointed Donna Weber to the position of Town Nurse. She was recommended for appointment by the Board of Health which has oversight responsibilities for the position. Donna is a Registered Nurse with over 16 years of experience and is a resident of Heath. We look forward to working with her. Thanks again to Sheila Litchfield for filling in temporarily and especially for doing the flu/pneumonia inoculation clinic

Vacancies.

Dave Howland has given notice that he will not be running for Finance Committee next year, and Henry Leuchtman will not be running again for Assessor. It is hard to adequately express our appreciation for Dave's and Henry's many years of service to the Town.

Persons interested in running for election to these positions should obtain nomination papers from Town Clerk Hilma Sumner by March 19. The last day to file is March 21.

The Town is in need of an animal inspector. The duties of the position include documenting the livestock in town; reviewing the conditions of their care and keeping; investigating complaints of neglect or abuse; monitoring cases of disease, and making reports to the Heath Board of Health and to the State. If anyone is interested, please contact the Selectboard at the town offices. A small stipend has been approved for this position.

In addition, the Town is seeking someone interested in working on the Conservation Commission. Please see the Selectboard about this, if interested.

Whittemore Spring

The Whittemore Spring has been restored but is awaiting testing and approval from the Board of Health and the State Department of Environmental Protection before it is declared safe for drinking.

FY09 Budget

All town boards and department heads are being asked to develop their budgets for the coming fiscal year. The Board will be holding hearings with committee chairs soon to develop the FY09 budget for the Annual Town Meeting on May 10, 2008.

Selectboard Training

Members of the Selectboard are once again participating in a series of workshops offered annually by the Franklin Regional Council of Government (FRCOG) to inform elected officials in area towns on various responsibilities of their positions. While we have attended these workshops in the past, we find a refresher course useful to keep abreast of any changes and strongly encourage other elected and appointed persons serving the Town to consider attending. The workshops provide the opportunity to hear from experts in such fields as:

1. Open Meeting Law
2. Ethics & Conflict of Interest Law
3. Management of town-owned property
4. Liability management
5. Municipal budgeting

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 being updated. All comments and suggestions are welcome. You may address them to Gloria Fisher at towncoordinator@townofheath.org. You may contact the Board 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

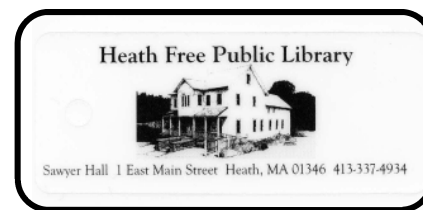
Elected Officials

Terms Expiring In May 2008

Brian De Vriese, Selectboard
Henry Leuchtman, Board of Assessors
Dave Howland, Finance Committee
Deborah Phillips, Planning Board
Kate Bailey, Library Trustee
Doug Wilkins, Moderator
Bob Tanner Jr, Dog Officer
Jeff Simmons, Constable
Bob Tanner Jr, Constable

Important Dates

March 19, 2008, Last Day to Obtain Nomination Papers from Town Clerk
March 21, 2008, Last Day to Submit Nomination Papers to Town Clerk
May 9, 2008, Town Election
May 10, 2008, Annual Town Meeting

Library Lines**New Library Cards**

By Donald Purington

The library is moving closer to using our new automated circulation system. We are giving plastic keytag-sized library cards to all of our patrons and plan to be using the cards by the end of February. These cards may also be used in any Massachusetts library that is a member of C/W MARS, such as Buckland, Colrain, Greenfield, Northampton, Amherst, and many others. Please come to the library and complete an application form to receive your new library card. The front of the card features a reproduction of a beautiful ink drawing of Sawyer Hall by Frederick Burrington.

The display case is filled with black ash baskets, handmade by Jayne Hare Dane. Some of them were made from trees harvested in Heath. Stained glass panels are hung in three library windows. On loan from John Henry, his creations add a sparkle to the low-angle winter sunlight streaming into the library. Thank you to Helen Mackie for coordinating our Baskets & Stained Glass display.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who participated in our December Holiday Raffle and/or donated prizes. We raised \$113 for the library and collected 11 food items for the Good Neighbors Food Pantry.

New at the Library:

Adult Fiction Books: *Big Dogs & Flyboys* by Heath author Sam Michel, *Chameleon's Shadow* by Minette Walters, *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks, *The Senator's Wife* by Sue Miller, *Tree of Smoke* by Denis Johnson, and *Diary of a Bad Year* by J. M. Coetzee

Adult Nonfiction Books: *The Prince of Darkness: 50 Years of Reporting in Washington* by Robert Novak, *Getting the Most From Your Digital Camera* by Simon Joinson, *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto* by Michael Pollan, and *Encyclopedia of Dog Breeds* by D. Caroline Coile.

Books on CD: *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks, *The Choice* by Nicholas Sparks, and *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith.

Books on Tape: *Remember When* by Nora Roberts, *The Nine Tailors* by Dorothy Sayers, and *The March* by E. L. Doctorow.

Young Adult Fiction Books: *Airman* by Eoin Colfer, *Black Book of Secrets* by F. E. Higgins, *Hound of the Rowan* by Henry H. Neff.

Young Adult/Children's Nonfiction Books: *Baseball Treasures* by Stephen Wong, *We Love Ballet!* by Jane Feldman.

Children's Picture Books: *When Harriet Met Sojourner* by Catherine Clinton, *Goodnight Moon 1 2 3: A Counting Book* illustrated by Margaret Wise Brown, and *Hurry! Hurry!* by Eve Bunting.

DVDs: *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, *The Bourne Ultimatum*, and *Get Shorty*.

Videos (Children's): Disney's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Dumbo*.

Finance Committee Report

At a meeting with the Selectboard and members of the Education Task Force on October 9, 2007, the Finance Committee (FinCom) was asked to prepare a report as to the feasibility of a Heath Independent School. Preparing such a document required more meetings to analyze the issues and prepare a report, which we did on November 27. The Selectboard had planned to invite townspeople to the Heath School to discuss the work of the many Task Force committees and the report of the FinCom, but snowstorms intervened. A meeting is now planned for March 18.

Also, the Planning Board is examining zoning changes relative to mobile homes, particularly in Mohawk Estates. It asked the FinCom for its opinion about the impact of such changes on enrollment at the Heath School and other possible financial consequences. This matter required meetings with the Planning Board. Jeff Simmons put together background data that was very helpful. The FinCom is working on its report. The

Planning Board will be holding a public hearing on the matter later in the spring in anticipation of the Annual Town Meeting on May 10.

Finally, the FinCom is pursuing local support for obtaining more governmental aid for Special Education, not only for the Mohawk District but for the State as well. The FinCom's article in the last issue of the *Heath Herald* entitled "Your Money at Work in Our Public Schools" focused on the deficiency in federal support for this mandated program. Original legislation clearly set guidelines to provide 40% aid, but, in practice, it has never been more than about 11% to 14%. We will keep you informed as to progress in this regard.

~ Dave Howland, Chair
Ned Wolf, Secretary
Janis Carr
Dave Gott
Jeff Simmons

Milestones

Susan Shepherd Taylor Thorpe of Greenfield died on December 9, 2007. Born in Greenfield on October 19, 1951, she was the daughter of Edwin and Janet Leonard Shepherd.

She grew up in Heath, graduated from Mohawk Trail Regional High School, was employed by Shelburne Falls National Bank/Bank of Boston/United Bank, by Wilson Department Store, and owned Jiggs Tavern.

Her husband, John G. Thorpe, died in 2006. She is survived by her daughter, Kelly S. Taylor, and her son, Corey L. Taylor, of Charlemont; two stepsons, Jason G. Thorpe of Peabody and Jeremy G. Thorpe of Eustis, FL; two brothers, **Lee Shepherd of Heath** and Andrew Shepherd of Leyden; three sisters, Gail Atkins of Hawley, Lynne Robinson of Watertown, NY, and Janet Brooks of Troy, NY.

Gerald C. "Jerry" Wells of Heath died on November 24, 2007. Born in Montague on July 9, 1945, he was the son of Harry and Leonora Fessenden Wells.

A US Army Vietnam veteran, he was a former employee of Don Lorenz Auto Dealership and Dillon Chevrolet, of Greenfield, and, most recently, drove a school bus for Heath and Colrain.

He is survived by his wife JoAnn Ainsworth Wells; his mother-in-law, Roberta Ainsworth, and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Franklin County, 329 Conway Street, Greenfield, MA 01301.

Requiescat in pace

Kameron Robert Crowningshield, son of Matt Crowningshield and Jenna Plante of Rowe, was born on January 16, 2008. He is the grandson of **Paul and Debbie Plante** of Heath and Steve and Deborah Crowningshield of Rowe, and the great-grandson of Paul and Dorothy Plante and Paul and Wendy Gilman, all of Granby, and Richard Joaquin of Katy, TX, Howard and Jeannette Crowningshield of Rowe and John Powell of Lake City, FL.

("Special Valentines" continued from page 3)

VAL "A BUSY LADY"

Val is a hard worker on multiple jobs. With her, I have worked on the Community Hall Committee as a past member and now work on the Council on Aging committee as a food server. She is always there for us, willing to help whenever needed. She is a fun and caring person. I feel privileged to have her as a coworker and friend.

~ Teresa Peters



Just wanted to say thanks for all you have done for me. You are so caring and how you do so much for everyone I'll never know. You have been there for me always from day one and your family, too.

Val, you are one of my family, and my daughter Janet loves you, too. You are so easy and fun to work with; stay that way.

Val, I love you, do drop in anytime and see me; we will have coffee and some goodies.

Val, you are very special in my book and a very precious friend.

Love always,

~ Dottie Sessions

David Howland

Dave, we love you for your many years of service to Heath during which you have so generously used your financial skills with humor and grace, for your dependable questioning of how and why any tax dollar is spent, for your insights from a career in business that includes managing Amherst College, for your tireless quest for useful information from newspapers, the Internet, local officials, and legislators, for your enlightening updates on Finance Committee actions as well as clear analyses of complex issues, and for the smile with which you greet us upon returning tanned and rested from Florida in early March. Happy Valentine's Day, Dave!

~ Ned Wolf



Valentine = Sweetheart chosen on Valentine's Day. **David Howland** is a sweetheart to Heath and to the Heath Historical Society. His vision, financial expertise, and sincere dedication to the preservation and restoration of Heath's historical treasures are evident in the Solomon Temple Barn Museum and the Fort Shirley site plus the Center Schoolhouse and the Old Town House. He is the "custodian" of these sites and his financial contributions to maintaining our funds are examples of his dedication.

He is Heath Historical Society's Sweetheart! Happy Valentine's, David.

~ Jack Cable, President



A gentleman at all times, mild-mannered and soft-spoken but armed with a pencil and a balance sheet, David becomes a warrior for financial stability. With his knowledge and expertise, he has worked diligently to keep Heath afloat and solvent through some difficult times.

I had the pleasure of working with David while serving as a board member on the Heath Historical Society and was deeply impressed by his hard work, knowledge, and dedication.

Dave Howland, you certainly have my utmost respect and gratitude for all that you are, and all that you do.

~ Eileen Tougas



From the very first moments of our acquaintance with him, Margaret and I knew Dave Howland was a pillar of the community we were about to join. He was straightforward, soft-spoken, understated. And, as our first winter as Heathans wore on, we discovered his other many virtues, his honorableness, his generosity with his time and wisdom, his indefatigably strong commitment to this beautiful place. As I became involved in various civic concerns, I time and again heard, in discussions, variations on the theme 'well, Dave Howland knows this,' or 'Dave Howland will do this for us,' or more frequently than anything else, 'Dave Howland has already done that.' His generosity to his town has been more than matched by his generosity to us, coming over (often in bad weather) to help us with one or another problem (which always turned out to be minor) with the house we had bought from Dave and Pegge. Dave Howland has been a kind of one-man Welcome Wagon for us when it really mattered. So Happy Valentine's Day, Dave, and watch out for the slings and arrows.

~ Don Freeman



Heath Ladies Aid Cookbook

Order Form

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E-mail: _____

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Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Snow</u>	<u>Rain</u>
From November 11, 2007		3 "
December	37 "	1½"
To January 10, 2008	6 "	¼"

In this reporting period:

The month of December provided us with quite a bit of snow, compared to the last few years. Most of the storms came on a Sunday giving the school kids a day off for three Mondays in a row. We had a low temperature of 5 degrees on December 6. The New Year started with a snowstorm on the 1st and a temperature of minus 12 on the 3rd. A January thaw came around the 7th and stayed a few days, providing us with a morning low of 52 degrees on the 9th. Things started to get back to being seasonal, for on this reporting deadline day, a good portion of the day saw freezing drizzle.

~ Timothy Lively

Community Calendar

February 2008

- February 05 – PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY, HEATH LIBRARY,**
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- February 06 –** Schools Early Release Day
- February 07 –** Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
PTP Meeting, Heath School, 3:30 p.m.
- February 08 –** Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.
Heath Agricultural Society Meeting, Heath School, 7:00 p.m..
- February 13 –** MTRHS Open House
Mohawk School Committee Meeting
- February 14 – HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**
- February 15 –** Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.
PTP Movie Night, Heath School, 7:00 p.m.
- February 18-21 – SCHOOLS WINTER VACATION**
- February 21 –** Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
- February 25 & 27 -** Bamidele-African Drumming Classroom Workshops, Heath School
- February 29 –** 70s Night, Heath School, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

March 2008

- March 03 & 07 –** Bamidele-African Drumming Classroom Workshops, Heath School
- March 06 –** Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
Enviromath Night, Heath School, 6:30 p.m.
- March 07 –** Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.
Bamidele-African Drumming Performance, Heath School, 6:30 p.m.
- March 08 –** 6th Grade Pancake Breakfast, Heath School, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. (Snow Date: 3/15)
- March 12 –** Early Release Day
Mohawk School Committee Meeting
- March 14 –** Drama Club Performance of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Heath School, 6:30 p.m.
(Open Dress Rehearsal, Heath School, 9:00 a.m.)
- March 15 –** Drama Club Production, Heath School, 6:30 p.m.
- March 18 –** Heath School Focus Group Report, Selectboard Meeting, Heath School, 7:00 p.m.
- March 19 –** Deadline to Pick Up Nomination Papers, Heath Town Hall
- March 20 –** Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
- March 21 – WELCOME SPRING!!!**
Last Day to Submit Nomination papers to Town Clerk
Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.
- March 28 –** Clark Johnson Memorial Astronomy Night, Heath School, 7:00 p.m.
- March 30 – HAPPY EASTER!**

*Those who contemplate the beauty of
the earth find reserves of strength
that will endure as long as life lasts.
There is something infinitely healing
in the repeated refrains of nature —
the assurance that dawn comes after
night, and spring after winter.*

*Rachel Carson
(1907-1964)*

Photograph by Pat Langevin



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Sunday, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.