



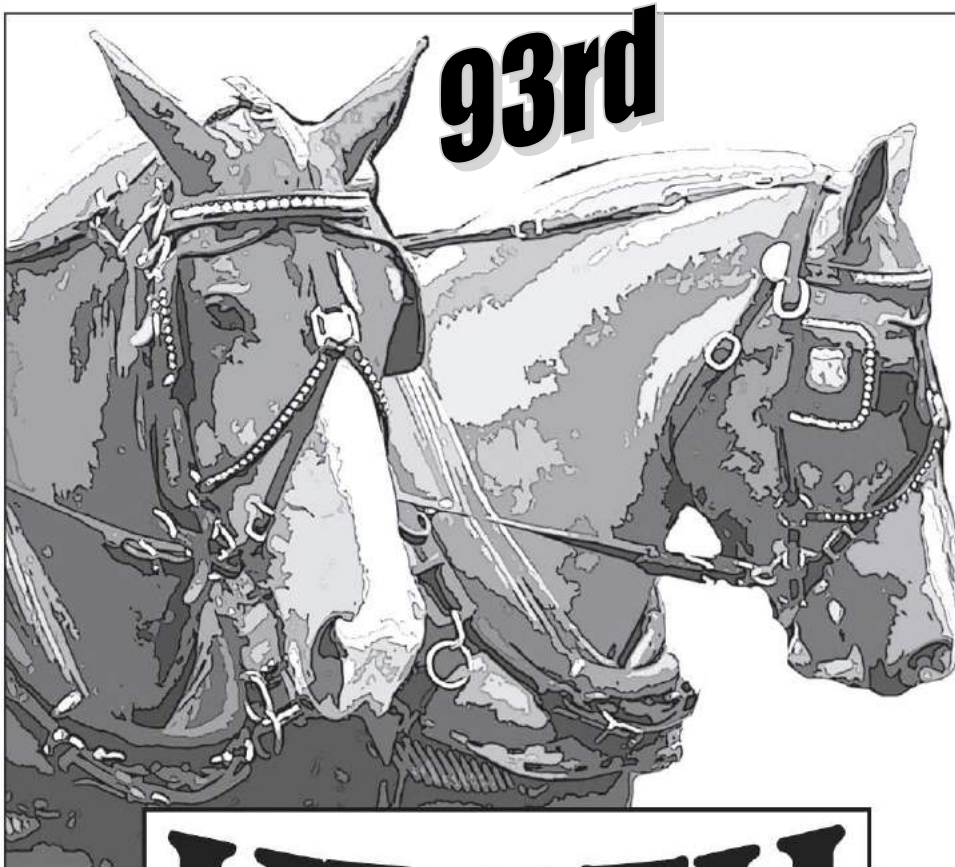
HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

\$1.50

Volume 32, Number 3

August/September 2010



HEATH FAIR

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August 20, 21, 22, 2010

Heath Herald

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THE HERALD DEADLINE FOR THE October/November 2010 issue is Sept. 10, 2010. All articles are the property of the Heath Herald unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Call (413) 337-8594 or E-mail Jane at jdeleuu@crocker.com.

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Heath Union Church News

A potluck dinner was held on July 4 with a visiting after the meal. On July 18 the Family Night at 6:00 p.m. hosted Ken Gilbert of Heath who related stories from his military service in the Air Force. In the future we hope to have Brian Donelson of Rowe speak to us about his research on railroad trains, especially about the Hoosic Tunnel and other local lines.

As of June 9 our Johnson Organ Opus 16 finally started its journey for restoration. S.L. Huntington of Stonington, CT will be restoring this treasure over the next year or so. The "gaping hole" was plastered and painted, thanks to the Howard Crowningshield family.

Please feel free to contact Pastor Grant or any of the Deacons if a need arises.

Adult Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study: Thursday, 6:00 p.m.

Pastor's hours: Thursday, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Church Telephone: 337-4019, Pastor: 413-648-9077

Deacons: Richard Gallup, 337-5367

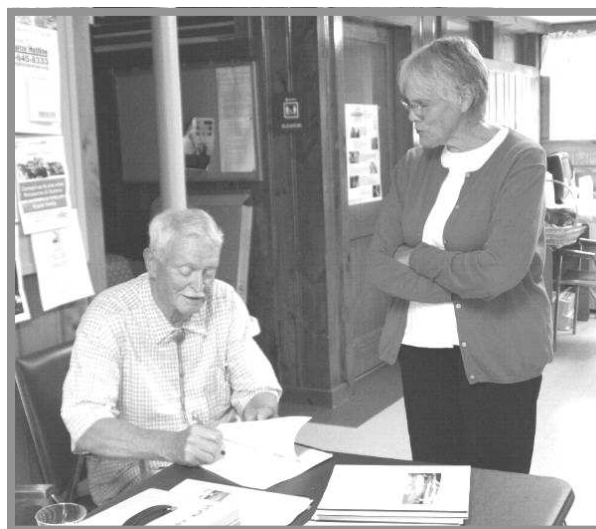
Tracey Brooks, 624-8905

Ruth Johnson, 337-4367

Walt Gleason, 337-4479

~ The Deacons

Dave Howland's Book Signing



Photograph by Art Schwenger

Dave Howland signing a copy of his memoir, "A Snippet from the Greatest Generation" for Pat Leuchtman at a reception given by the Friends of the Heath Public Library and The Heath Herald on June 6, at the Senior Center.

Welcome to Jeanine Heil, Heath Elementary School's New Principal!



Ms Heil comes to us from New Jersey, a graduate of Trenton State College, now the College of New Jersey, with a host of credentials and experiences in several fields relative to elementary education and to school administration.

A sampling: Her undergraduate double major in elementary education and psychology; a Reading Specialist master's degree from Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ; teaching in several New Jersey districts; part of the Reading Recovery Program, an early intervention program working with

the lowest readers on a one-to-one basis requiring one-year intensive training; appointment to the New Jersey Department of Education as Coordinator of the Office of Reading First which involved the planning of state-wide teachers' conferences and working hand-in-hand with NJ TV Network and learning TV production as well.

At this point, even though loving the job, she found herself missing the kids, so she went back to school in a New Jersey school district, becoming Director of Curriculum Instruction and Technology in which capacity she did model lessons with teachers thereby gaining access to classroom interaction with the students. She was also appointed assistant principal. Her goal then was to become a principal, "to be part of the everyday happenings at the schools, with the teachers and the students and their families."

She earned her principal certification and was hired by another district, one of New Jersey's best, first as assistant principal and then as principal of a pre-K through 8th grade large school that required 100 staff members. She says, "There was nothing like it, standing in the gymnasium with 780 students looking at you as you said, 'Good Morning' and getting their response!"

Along the way, Ms. Heil was elected to the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards whose mission is to advance the quality of teaching. This is the highest distinction a teacher can earn. National Board certified teachers "are highly accomplished educators who meet high and rigorous standards through extensive study, expert evaluation, self assessment, and peer review." Leading to the awarding of this certification was a year-long process ending with the presentation of five portfolios in Leadership, Social Studies and Community Building, Science-Math Connection, Language Arts, and Parental Involvement. (And, by the way, there is a 36% passing rate, and our new principal passed the first time!)

After three years, feeling the need for a change of scene, she came to New England for which she has long felt an affinity. Her parents have a vacation home in Maine, and she had visited Ashfield (where she now lives) several times. So she sought Massachusetts certification.

Her own experience, growing up and attending a "humongous" school where she felt shy and unknown, led her

to beg her parents to send her to a much smaller high school, one with 96 students and 25 in the graduating class. There she bloomed and found "the courage to take risks." She feels that good parenting and this school experience made her the person she is today.

She was attracted to the Heath School by its size and location and community involvement. She feels the school provides a safe and intimate environment where children can learn to take risks and is a place where "there are so many good people helping each other." In addition to her principal duties, she will also teach reading.

Asked if she could squeeze in a bit of vacation before the start of school, she beamed, saying she would be going to Acadia National Park, "heaven." "I am a great kayaker and hiker...and skier!"

I would say, from all points of view, Principal Jeanine Heil and Heath School are a sure fit!!

~ Jane deLeeuw

A Party for Elsa Bakalar

Elsa Bakalar (1918-2010) was famous for her garden on Hosmer Road but it was the love she gave to family, friends, and students that brought those who loved her to the garden on Saturday, July 31. We were welcomed by the new owners Scott Prior and his wife Nanny Vonnegut. The garden continues to be tended by Jeff Farrell who worked with Elsa for several years before she moved to Ashfield.

There is never a final farewell to a beloved friend or relative and memories of Elsa ran strong that day as Cousin Stan Holton talked about childhood days in England with Elsa as the oldest of the cousins, and of the WWII days when Elsa lived at Quarry Cottage and taught in the village school. Stan recalled that she entertained 'the troops' and I myself remember her mentioning that one or two dashing servicemen found their way to her door. She was over 60 when I first met her and when I think of Elsa's charm then, I can only imagine what a dazzler she must have been at 22.

Marie Hershkowitz and Nicole Gordon, former students who also spent summers with her in the Heath 'camp' and who held responsibilities for her care in those last years, had photos and stories, as did other members of the Bakalar family. Cousin Stan read the famous Kipling poem *Glory of the Garden* which contained a line that Elsa often quoted, "... gardens are not made/By singing:--"Oh, how beautiful!" and sitting in the shade. ... "

After a champagne toast we made our way to Jan and Cal Carr's barn, where Susan and Jake Bakalar had laid out a buffet supper. More stories and laughter, but also a few silent minutes while Nicole played a recording of Elsa reading the opening chapter of Charles Dickens' *Bleak House*. There may be nothing more evocative or heartbreaking than the sound of a dear one's voice, when that voice will not be heard in life again.

It was often said that wherever Elsa was, there was a party. When her husband Mike died in 2000 she hosted a memorial in the garden they made together, never speaking of grief, but only pointing out the beauty in front of us. Those gathered on Saturday enjoyed the beauty of the day, knowing that is what Elsa would have done.

~ Pat Leuchtman

The Old Town House Gets a New Roof



Photograph by Art Schwenger

The Old Town House in Heath Center was built in 1834 by David Snow and used for town meetings from 1835 to 1897. When the building became available in 1901 the Heath Historical Society arranged a lease of 99 years with the Town of Heath with the proviso to maintain it. Since then the building has housed important artifacts such as paintings, photographs, furniture, and other memorabilia and is open to the public on scheduled dates and by appointment. In 2008 Heath Center, with many of its older buildings including the Old Town House, was named in the National Register of Historic Places.

Maintaining historic buildings requires constant vigilance and money. It is believed the roof on the Old Town House was last covered in the 1920s with asbestos shingles, which are now considered a hazardous material. The asbestos material was mixed with concrete so, while long lasting, the shingles are heavy and brittle and difficult, if not impossible, to replace. Looking closely, it was determined there were at least three layers of cedar shingles under the asbestos ones. Also, work done many years ago around a chimney apparently began to leak and over time a purlin support beam was weakened causing the roof to sag. The Society decided it was time to fix the beam and replace the shingles.

Removing and disposing of the asbestos shingles proved to be an expensive undertaking; it costs as much to do that as to re-shingle the roof. After a missed-start in 2008 when funding had been accumulated but had to be used for serious repair work to the foundation of the Center Schoolhouse, the Society was finally able to contract for the job in 2010. Two contractors – the Western Massachusetts Environmental firm of West Springfield, MA, to remove the asbestos and wood shingles, and the R.C.R. Construction Co. of Heath (Andy Royer) to put on new 50-year asphalt shingles – were engaged to do the job. The total cost is very close to \$20,000 and is evenly split between the two firms. The Society raised funds from the Dickinson Family Fund, the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, the Bank of Western Massachusetts, and the Society's membership. The Society cannot thank all of them enough for their support.

The asbestos and wood shingle material is trucked to a waste management landfill in Rochester, NH. The new shingles will match the roof of the Center Schoolhouse. The entire job was finished in July, well before the Heath Fair and the Annual Meeting of the Heath Historical Society on Saturday, August 28. The Old Town House and the Center Schoolhouse will be open to the public on that day from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

*~ David F. Howland
Treasurer of HHS*

Johnson Organ Report

During the first week of June, Scot Huntington and Bill Czeisusniak of the S.L. Huntington & Co, of Stonington, CT, directed the dismantling of our Johnson Organ Opus 16. Extremely great care was taken by these two men and their crew and their expertise was evident whenever I stopped in to watch the procedure. Every piece of our said jewel was so carefully removed, wrapped, marked, and placed in wooden boxes. As an observer, I was completely overwhelmed by the dedicated precise work of all the men. One has to have great respect for the workmanship that went into the building and now would go into the restoring of such a beautiful instrument.

On June 9, the truck was loaded and our dismantled organ was on its way to Stonington, CT. where the restoration will take place over the next year or 18 months.

Thanks to Art Schwenger and Ned Wolf we have a pictorial record of the process. What a celebration we will have when Opus 16, restored to its original splendor, is returned to the Heath Church !

*~ Ruth Johnson, Chair
Johnson Organ Restoration Committee*



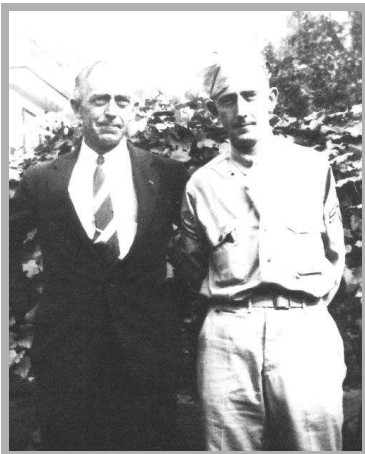
Photographs by Art Schwenger

WW II in Heath

My family moved to Heath in June of 1940. We lived on South Road, two houses south of the Dickinson Farm where we soon learned that the Dickinson family members were the most hospitable people on earth. As it turned out, we have the dubious distinction of having left Heath twice (not a good thing), once in late 1942 for six months, and then again in 1948, when our second Heath home in Heath Center burned to the ground. My sister, the late Joyce Thompson, was to return to Heath in the early 1970s when she became the wife of the late Howard Thompson..

One of the reasons my parents moved to Heath in the first place was to avoid the turmoil that prevailed in our large east coast cities. For the remainder of the war, my father worked for the Navy in Boston and commuted to Heath where his family enjoyed the love and support of that wonderful community. For me, my years in Heath were a life-forming experience for which I will be forever grateful.

~ Bruce Patterson
Wilmington, NC



Homer Tanner with his son Richard (Dick) Tanner prior to his deployment to England for duty with the (Mighty) Eight Air Force. Circa 1943

The passing of some of our Senior Citizens this past year has caused this writer to recall the events of his youth in which the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was the defining event. If you are over 75 years of age, you will recall exactly where you were and what you were doing that December evening.

December 7, 1941, was a normal Sunday in Heath. We had all been to church that morning and the youth no doubt had an afternoon Christian Endeavor activity.

I first heard of the attack, while enjoying a wonderful bowl of milk-bread in the warm, friendly Dickinson kitchen that evening. Their radio was on and the announcer was reporting the Japanese attack on the US Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

This 10-year-old could not imagine the changes that would take place during the next four years but they started first thing Monday morning, December 8, when our Center School teacher, Miss Johnson, gave us all an unplanned geography lesson. The braggadocio statements that followed were not politically correct by today's standards but seemed perfectly proper when voiced by my fellow grammar school students that December morning. Other changes were to come to our town and what follows are just a few that I can recall.

In the early days of aviation, each town or city had its name and an arrow pointing north painted on the roof of a large

building, thus providing a navigational aid to low-flying aircraft. Ours was painted on the Town Maintenance Shed and it was not too long before it was painted out.

By spring, the nation's industrial base had begun the massive task of converting from a civilian orientated base to military, and steel production could not keep up with the demand. Slowly at first, but then on an accelerated basis, farmers collected any scrap metal thus removing rusted and unused farm machinery from their barnyards and selling it as scrap. Indeed, anything metal was held for recycling.

Our nation had begun to prepare for war a year before Pearl Harbor by instituting the draft. Every male citizen over the age of 18 was to register and, one by one, they were called up for military service. Additionally, several volunteered, likewise several of our female citizens. I can recall vividly, the departure of many of "our boys." Fortunately, all were to return to our hilltop town but I do remember several memorial services held in the Arms Academy auditorium when a blue star, representing a service member, was replaced by a gold star, representing that service member's death. Those were solemn assemblies!

The War Department was still concerned about low-flying enemy aircraft and even though Heath is some distance from the Coast, a lookout tower was erected in the Gleason Meadow and a volunteer manning roster was established. This writer could never understand why the tower was in the meadow and not on Schoolhouse Hill since the latter would have provided better elevation. I don't recall that we ever sighted any enemy aircraft.

Nation-wide rationing of almost every commodity was in effect but the rationing of food products had little effect on Heath since almost all food commodities were homegrown, the exceptions perhaps being wheat flour and sugar. Gasoline was a different matter, thus our travel was severely limited. I do recall that our pastor, the Reverend Frederick Dixon, had a gas ration allowance that permitted him to do more driving than most of us, thus he was able to carry students from Center School down to South School every Wednesday afternoon for Bible School.

If you needed to go to Greenfield, Boston, or even New York, you went by train departing from the Shelburne Falls (Buckland) railroad station. Greenfield became a rail hub with north-south tracks intersecting with east-west. No one seemed to complain, it was a great way to travel.

There was a need for military convoys to use the Mohawk Trail (Route 2) as access to the Boston Port of Embarkation, thus it was not unusual to witness Army convoys traveling east on Bridge Street in Shelburne Falls before the Route 2 bypass was completed. The convoys seemed to go on for hours but we were usually rewarded by a wave or two from the soldiers who were enduring the uncomfortable ride in the back of a duce-and-a-half truck. The girls, however, were usually rewarded with a wave and a whistle.

The War (WW II) was a defining event for all of us born before the 1950s. Those of us fortunate enough to spend those war years in Heath were spared much of the trauma that was to befall the youth in other parts of the country. We were and remain blessed to have spent those years in Heath!



Wild Ramblings

Thoughts in the Wild

By Bill Lattrell



Mont Laurier, Quebec, located about 200 miles northwest of Montreal, is sort of on the edge of civilization. The town supports a host of businesses, hotels, markets, restaurants, small industry, and a good-sized hospital. North of this large town, on a road known as TransCanada 117, the scenery changes dramatically.

There are a few small towns immediately north, and then, as one pushes farther north, the boreal forest borders the highway, along with lake after lake. At first the hamlets are 20 miles apart and then after a while they spread out to being 50 miles apart. Before you know it there is a hundred miles between settlements.

Just about when you think you have seen all of the forest in Quebec TransCanada 117 intersects another numbered highway, TransCanada 113. This paved road, where locals drive as if they were on a mission to death, passes through a small town called Seneterre where hardy French-speaking Quebecois eke out a living in various jobs that are mostly dependent on the abundant natural resources found in the nearby forests. The town seems to have a fierce pride about its existence, primarily because it has endured the harshness of winter amidst the wilderness of Quebec for more than a hundred years. In a local restaurant there are pictures of the first car in town in 1924 and the first gas station more than a decade later. There are also photographs of old churches, a town celebration in the 1950s, and a scene showing local businesses at some time in the distant past. In all photographs there are smiling faces of people long since gone. Today, the people are friendly, and are quick still to smile as I speak bad French or butcher the name of a local place.

About an hour up the road there is an even smaller town called Lebel-sur-Quevillon. Quevillon is the name of a sizeable lake. This town consists of clusters of houses that appear to have been put up quickly and without any logical planning. If you study the buildings you can identify the vintage of each era of construction. The oldest houses are small two-story houses. The houses built in the 1950s and 1960s are terribly small ranch-style homes with everything on one level. The newest homes are prefabricated construction, usually long and narrow with vinyl siding. There is a large wood products plant in the area that appeared to be closed or underutilized during our most recent visit. The town has a downtown area consisting of a cluster of stores, grocery, pharmacy, hardware, and a pizza/chicken palace (which is for sale to some perspective entrepreneur). There is also a small liquor store that is also for sale, perhaps the sign of a bad economy gone worse. There is an excellent hospital in town (I once took a friend there with a broken collarbone after an accident in the wilderness). The large lake seems to be the focus of the town. Fishing is more than just a past-time here. It is a lifestyle. Lebel also supports two motels and, strangely, a very small golf course. Of course, multitudes of fishing bait and tackle are sold at both gas stations and the local Depannier (store).

The past two years I have gone on this journey on my way to Lac Wetetnagami. This fabulous lake, carved by glaciers more than 12,000 years ago, is part of the Wetetnagami River that flows north into the Hudson Bay. It takes patience to reach Wetetnagami. Getting to this wonderful lake requires travel on more than 50 miles of dirt logging roads which challenge the suspension of even the toughest truck. Travel on these rocky dirt roads is interesting. The trick is to find the right speed. If you drive just fast enough you can skim the surface of the 10 or 15 million rocks that comprise the road surface. If you drive too slowly you will feel each and every bump, which eventually takes a bad toll on your back and other critical sitting areas of your body. Along the way you might see an occasional local resident coming home from work, likely logging, driving at about 70 miles per hour with a trail of dust that does not settle down for quite some time. The skills to travel these roads at excessive speeds are way beyond any abilities that I have. It seems second nature to those who do so on an everyday basis. Along this dirt and rock super highway we noticed logging trucks, the tractor trailer variety, speeding along at about 80 miles per hour in the middle of the road. Only the dumbest of the dumb would not yield to these freight carriers loaded with tons and tons of logs. There is also a logging camp located on the side of the road at about the 30-mile point on this logging road. The modern logging camp consists of RV trailers and campers parked every which way and without regard for organization. Here hard forest laborers who build new logging roads and harvest large sections of forest spend their evenings during the workweek before returning to their families on weekends.

The last 12 or so miles of the journey to Wetetnagami are very rough. The branches from trees on the side of the very narrow cart road polish your truck exterior along the entire route. Top speed is about 20 miles per hour. In most areas you are actually travelling along at about 12 mph. The problem here is that due to the hills, dales, and curves along the road you cannot see anyone coming who is also travelling along at the same rate in the opposite direction. Worse, they will be travelling in exactly the same lane as you. It is the only travel lane there is.

Lac Wetetnagami is a medium- to small-sized lake, perhaps 12-14 miles in length, with many large bays and fingers. This boreal forest lake holds quite a few islands that range in size from acres of land growing boreal forest, to small, naked, rocky outcrops surrounded by water. Our reason for travelling here was to seek peace in the wilderness (and I do mean wilderness) and to catch a few fish on which we could dine.

(“Thoughts in the Wild” continued on page 7)

(*"Thoughts in the Wild"* continued from page 6)

Although I have visited this lake before, this was the first time for both of my sons. Liam and Brendan have heard about all my adventures in northern Quebec, but this was the first time that they have accompanied me. I started exploring the wilderness of Quebec years ago. About twelve years ago I started to go at least once a year with my two best friends. For various reasons I have never had the opportunity to go with Brendan and Liam. Now that they are both adults I felt the need to show them the beauty of the Canadian wilderness.



Bill and his boys.

Finding time for us three guys to enjoy the wilderness was almost miraculous. Liam is still completing graduate school, and Brendan is pretty busy as the producer of a television show so finding a time when all three of us could make this journey was

quite a feat. With great effort and many schedule changes we finally pulled it off.

On July 3 the three of us stood on the edge of Lac Wetetnagami. I really enjoyed the looks on their faces as they gazed at the shimmering blue water dotted with islands topped with conifer trees. The backdrop of hundreds of miles of boreal forest finished the scene. Even after years of exploring northern Quebec I am still mesmerized by these wild places. Seeing their look of appreciation for the beauty of the wilderness is a memory that I will forever hold close to my heart.

Our week would be filled with plenty of laughter, some very good fishing, dinners whose centerpiece was most often walleye, and exploration of the shores and borders of the lake. Although we saw no moose that week (unusual in an area rife with this large king of the north woods) we witnessed multitudes of loons, bald eagles, beaver, large numbers of ravens, every type of waterfowl known to inhabit these parts, and a marauding mother bear and cub who shared our garbage and managed to make our camp area look like an abandoned landfill. We even heard wolves howling late one night. Our isolated camp was small but quite comfortable. It was complete with a shower that fortuitously worked every now and then. Our gas refrigerator kept food cold in the freezer section which was way more than we asked for. The camp was even equipped with solar lights. These were not needed for long periods of time given that daylight lasted about 20 hours at this time of year.

We spent at least ten hours a day in our 12-foot aluminum boat equipped with a newer 15 horsepower Yamaha motor. The motor ran flawlessly which was very important given the stiff winds that could build on the lake in a matter of moments. The weather was typical for this region. One can experience bright sunlight, heavy cloud cover, mist, heavy rains, and a thunderstorm every few hours. If you don't like the weather it will be glad to repeat itself six times a day just so you can fact-check your opinion.

On one particular day we were travelling a long distance between fishing spots. Wetetnagmi is surrounded by boreal

forest recovering from a gigantic forest fire that burned countless acres more than 15 years ago. The scenery around us was amazing. The dark, cloudy skies contrasted handsomely with the steel gray water. Conifers dotted the shoreline. Green branches on black spruce, balsam fir, and tamarack trees provided the perfect backdrop. In the distance there was a hint of sunny sky, a patch of blue peeking between ominous clouds. The boys chatted as the boat skated along on top of the water. They smiled and joked and seemed free from all the burdens of the world. It was one of those rare perfect moments. I love those short pieces of time when everything is just right. I took a mental snapshot and told myself to hold this memory for times when I needed to be cheered up. God knows we all have those moments.

That evening I sat on the porch of the camp. It was about 11:30 at night and the western horizon still held splashes of yellow and pink. Venus was rising in the southern sky. The boys were laughing in the background from inside the cabin while remembering some old experience from their younger days. For some unknown reason I thought about the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. I consider this the greatest crime in my lifetime against our planet. This thought, in contrast to the beautiful surroundings and the cherished memories of the day, created a powerful experience. It seemed to renew my mission in life, to help people understand the precious nature and balance of the Planet Earth. I knew that when I returned to civilization there would be a lifetime of work ahead. That thought framed with the reality of one man sitting at a computer keyboard writing about nature and, during the school year, passing on knowledge to graduate students, was more than a bit humbling. It was somehow strangely daunting.

Loons called out to each other over quiet black waters. Their strange laugh somehow seemed significant and related to all my thoughts. This part of the world was at peace, at least for the moment. I looked at the heavens above. The stars were just appearing at midnight as the sun faded into the black abyss to the west.

And I wondered if there was still time to pass on the words that would be helpful and hopeful to those who would continue the challenge of maintaining a beautiful planet into the future.

Visit me at www.wildramblings.com.

Photographs provided by Bill Lattrell



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Settling Down in this Remarkable Town Part I

Intro

I first set foot in Heath in January of 1974. I came with my then-wife, Karen Chrisman, and a real estate agent from Amherst. The Realtor™ didn't know another way to get to Branch Hill Road but to go on Route 2 all the way into Charlemont center, then up 8A to Ben Road, turn right, then up past the town garage.

The second time was a few days later, when Karen and I came on our own, driving our 1966 Volkswagen Squareback. We'd looked on a Franklin County map, and decided there was a shorter way, so we came up Avery Road, after turning off Route 2 at the A-frames, then up the high road into the center, then up Ledges Road to the place we were about to buy, across from the Wolfs. David Moyer was staying at the Browns' place that winter, and he happened to be outside stacking wood as we came. I'll never forget the look of amazement on his face as we lurched up Ledges Road – certainly the first car to brave that stretch in many months ... and maybe the last.

In 2006 I decided to write something about those early years. I remember bumping into Juliet Seaver at the Fair and telling her we should all do this – the back-to-the-land urban refugees of the late '60s and early '70s. At the time, I imagined I would go around and collect oral histories on tape or CD of peoples' experiences, then transcribe them into some kind of book form. But time passed, and now I'm living in Guatemala, so it seems unlikely I'll soon be knocking on folks' doors to ask how it was for them their first years in Heath.

But it does seem to me there's a story to be told. Ed Calver, bless his cranky soul, did a wonderfully thorough job of cataloguing Heath's history, basically from day one until his era. My early years overlapped Ed's later years, at his sweet place in the Dell ... but he didn't record the influx of immigrants from away, and I think somebody should, if only for our kids, who mostly have no clue what it was like – the wave of immigrants to Heath (and many other western Mass. communities as well, to be sure – numbering in the hundreds, or even thousands), who came, fresh from the culture wars of the 60s, seeking a better life.

I'm offering my own story herein, with hopes that others will find time to tell theirs, too. Most of the cohorts I'm thinking about were basically kids themselves – 20-somethings – when they came to Heath. And many have stayed and become integral parts of this remarkable town.

Coming to the Country

In 1970 I worked at 150 Causeway St. in Boston. Three people who would soon impact my life worked there as well. Two of them, Mike Nelson and Marybelle Finger, met on that job, got married, and before long left the city for upper Buckland, where they bought the red house on Upper Street just below the old Griswold place – next door to where the McCusker/Andersons live today. Marybelle's college friend, Richards Steinbock – known far and wide as Steiny – worked with us in Boston, too. He went west to Buckland with them.

Karen and I got married in 1970, and after seeing friends' slides of central Asia, India, and Nepal, decided to set off to view those same beautiful sites. We worked hard for two years and scrimped like misers, then in early March 1972 loaded all our worldly goods into a U-Haul, left our Cambridge apartment for good, drove to Buckland, and dropped off everything – including one cat – with Mike, Marybelle, and Steiny, in that Buckland house. I think young Georges Wetterwald, sometimes called Jody, was living there, too. It was like a commune, as many places were in those days. We left our other cat with my college friends on Lake Wyola in Shutesbury; they had also lived in Boston in the late '60s and early '70s, and also opted for a more rural experience.

When Karen and I returned from our travels in Europe and Central Asia, it was March, 1973. We initially planned to settle in Maine, where I'd taught high school for a year, and where we had other friends who had gone to teach school in a rural community as an alternative to being drafted and sent to Viet Nam. But Maine just seemed too remote, too big, too far between towns, too distant from civilization. So, since all our belongings and our beloved cats were in western Mass., we came west in the late spring of 1973.

We stayed a few months with our friends on Lake Wyola, then moved to Buckland. Upper Street was then alive with urban refugees living somewhat communally in several houses. We met them all, of course, including Ann Fogarty, who was later to divorce her husband and marry Steiny. She lived in the corner house now owned by Curtis Rich and Kathy Lytle of Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters fame.

And then we learned what *communards* have learned from time immemorial: it's really, really hard to live communally. Sometime in the fall of 1973 Karen and I decided we'd had enough, and started looking for a house to call our own.

We didn't have much money, but we'd still retained some savings after our travels. We saw houses in Hawley and Erving and Colrain, and probably others I don't remember. All needed work. The one in Erving had just had a fire. And at some point the Realtor™ took us to Heath. Although we'd lived several months in Buckland, we'd never been to Heath; when we hit Charlemont center on the return trip up and down 8A, I initially thought we were in Shelburne Falls and thought, "Oh, Heath is really close."

The house – though at that time it was merely a camp – sits at the back of the mowing across from what is now Ned Wolf's place. Through the woods was the cottage Alan Nichols and Catherine Heyl built, later owned by Bonnie Wodin and David Schwartz. I noted above that the places we looked at needed work. Our house needed work.

("Settling Down in this Remarkable Town" continued on page 10)

(“Settling Down in this Remarkable Town” continued from page 9)



Our former home in Heath as it looks today.

It had been used as a summer camp for several decades, since it was built in about 1936. A family named Sawyer, from Worcester, had been coming up for at least 20 years. Then Mr. Sawyer died, and events unfolded rapidly. The Registry of Deeds in Greenfield will show exactly how it all went down, but essentially what happened was this: Terry Krumm bought the place, in maybe 1970. Terry was – and might still be – teaching art at UMass. He is also primarily responsible for Mohawk Estates, whose development was the impetus for Heath to create zoning and land-use laws. I believe he began the construction of the ell at the back of the house (which I’m sure many people don’t realize is there, as it is barely visible from the road). The ell has a cathedral ceiling, about 16 feet to the roofpeak. A fellow named Norman had some part in that construction, as well, and may have owned the place briefly. According to old Charlie Bankwitz, who summered in the next house down Branch Hill Road, the camp had been divided up into quite a few tiny bedrooms ... but when we first saw it, it was almost entirely open, wall-to-wall and floor-to-roofpeak, both in the part one sees from the road and the ell. Karen and I bought the house from a guy named Simpson, a New Yorker and an artist, as well.

And this next part is what I really want my kids to know about. The house was severely under construction when we saw it; Simpson had run out of money or patience or both, and decided to unload it. From the outside it could have been any summer camp: cedar shakes on exterior walls, slate shingles on the roof. Inside was a construction site-slash-war zone. The house had plywood sheathing for floors. Whatever walls had been there, somebody had ripped them down. Somebody had put 6-inch fiberglass insulation between the studs, mostly though, there were gaps. The ceiling as well. The fiberglass was exposed on most walls and the ceiling; the ell had ½” pine vertical shiplap boards covering most of its walls. There was a small loft in the ell, with a moveable ladder up to it; the slate shingles were still on the back roof of the original house, and formed one slanting wall of the loft. There were no cupboards, no cabinets, no shelving; all had been ripped out. There was a pine butcher-block table-top, sitting on inadequate legs. The only useful thing about the kitchen was its gas stove. There was no running water, as several copper pipes (all of which were

exposed) had burst in the cold ... as had the shallow-well pump. There was no drainage (what we later learned is called DWV, or drain-waste-vent system), because the 3-inch plastic pipes going out to the septic (what we later learned was a cesspool) were frozen solid; nor were there any pipes to vent sewage gases. All the electricity in the house was on four fuses, on a 60-amp system. What little heat there was came from a propane floor furnace, exactly like the one in Peters’ Store ... and from an inefficient fireplace-with-metal-vents at the back end of the ell. The house had never been lived in year-round. We moved in on a cold day in February, in an open winter.

But I’m getting ahead of myself. First we had to buy the house. What bank today would consider for longer than five seconds loaning money to purchase such a disaster? That house’s condition would violate probably fifty codes today.

But Karen and I were young, and the times were different. Though I had long hippie hair and a full beard, I made myself as presentable as I could, and we went to what was then called the Shelburne Falls Savings Bank (now Bank of Western Massachusetts), in the building now occupied by Café Martin and the Shelburne Falls Artists’ Coop. We said we wanted to buy a house. We were introduced to the bank’s president, Elwin Ball – a portly gentleman, 60-ish or maybe more, balding, wearing wire rim glasses, a suit, and a wide necktie at least 30 years out of date, held in place by a tie clasp. Think about this: the bank’s *president* met with us to talk about a mortgage. There had been some preliminary work already done; a bank representative had gone to see the house earlier in the week. Mr. Ball asked about our jobs – I had none; Karen had just started working part-time at UMass. He asked about our resources – we did have about \$4,000 we could put for a down payment. He knew the house’s price: \$17,500. He was very pleasant, but it was clear he was not happy about our potential ability to make regular mortgage payments. He asked a few other questions, obviously trying to get a sense of these odd long-haired newcomers. And then he asked what we had been doing before we came to Franklin County. We told him about our extended time out of the country. He asked where we had been. We told him: England, Spain, France, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Italy ... *Italy!*—he stopped us short – “*Italy!* – Where were you in Italy?” We told him, “Mostly Tuscany, between Siena and Florence....” “*Florence!*” He simply beamed. “My wife and I were just in Florence last summer; we *loved* Florence....” His eyes took on a faraway look. “We’d love to go back there ... we had such a wonderful time....” No longer were Karen and I petitioners begging favor from a powerful higher authority; we were suddenly fellow travelers, exchanging memories of a beloved vacation spot. When we shook hands to bid farewell, there were still a few details to be worked out, but any significant obstacles to our receiving mortgage approval appeared to have vanished in the jovial camaraderie of new-found Italophile friendship.

~ Michael Chrisman

Editors note: Look for “Part II” in the October/November issue of the Heath Herald.

Support Heath Agriculture



Benson Place

Wonderfully Wild Blueberry Spread



- Made from our own sustainably grown low bush blueberries and organic cranberries. Lightly sweetened with honey.
- Available at the farm, Peter's Store, Avery's Store, the Big Indian Shop, Shelburne Falls Market, McCusker's Market, Rte 91 Visitors' Center, Green Fields Market, and other area stores (see website for those locations).
- Contact us about the spread, this year's fresh blueberry harvest, walking this beautiful land, or to see how you can assist in the community effort to preserve the farm.
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(413) 337-5340, www.bensonplace.org or benplace@gis.net



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

Heath Fair News

Premium books are available at the Heath Public Library and Peter's Store. Time to start getting entry forms in! You can find them in the premium books or download them at Heathfair.org. Exhibit Hall Entry Forms must be received by Doug and Kathy Wilkins, 7 Underwood Hill Road, Colrain, MA 01346 NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, AUGUST 13. This is ONE WEEK before the Fair. And to be fair, no registrations will be accepted after that date. Registered exhibits are accepted at the Exhibit Hall at the Heath Fairgrounds on Thursday, August 19, starting at 4:00 p.m. All exhibits must be in place by 8:00. Good Luck, Everyone!

For Exhibit Hall or livestock entry questions, here is a list of people to call

Superintendent of Cattle:	Tom Lively 337-4061
Superintendent of Rabbits:	Shirley Tombs 625-2168
Superintendent of Poultry:	Conrad Halburg 625-6519
Superintendent of Sheep:	Launie York 625-2424
Superintendent of Goats:	Sheila Litchfield 337-4957
Gymkhana:	Carol Lively: 339-0252
Truck and Tractor Pulls:	Devon Clark 337-4730
Ox and Horse Draws:	Nathan Clark 337-7761 or Kyle Clark 337-6697

There are lots of opportunities to volunteer. Fair volunteers get in free on the day they work. Here's a list of folks to contact.

Upper Food Booth: Eric and Mary Sumner 337-5330 or Deb Porter 337-4715
Lower Food Booth: Bob and Donna Tanner: 337-4236
Exhibit Hall: Robin Jenkins 337-4389
(Hall Committee Volunteers are especially needed!)
Kids Games: Michael and Camille Freeman 337-4239
Selling Tickets: Jesse Porter-Henry 413 835-6972 or Emily Cross 337-6697
Parking: Justin Lively 413 834-0168
Trash and Recycle: Pam Porter 337-5525

Hope to see you at the Fair!

~ Pam Porter
President

Visit Us at the Fair

Family Tent

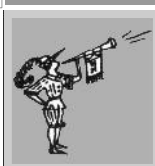
The Family Tent returns this year to the Heath Fair to provide a quiet place to change your baby, a comfy spot for nursing moms. and toys for the kids to play with. Many thanks to Baystate-Franklin Medical Center for funding the tent.

~ Lyra Johnson

During the Heath Fair, the Heath Historical Society's **SOLOMON TEMPLE BARN MUSUEM** will be open on Friday, August 20, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., on Saturday, August 21, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and on Sunday, August 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

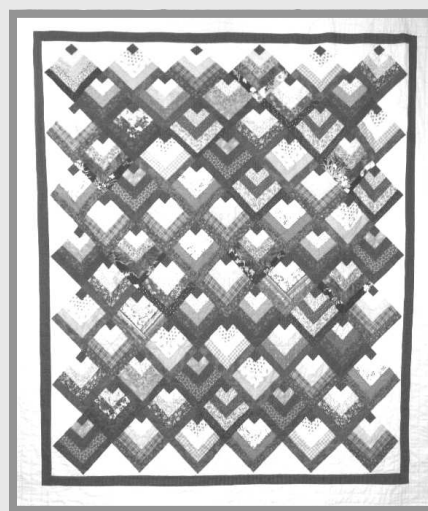
In addition to the Society's publications including Dave Howland's Memoir, **A Snippet from the Greatest Generation**, tickets for the annual raffle will be on sale, one for \$1.00, 7 for \$5.00, and the raffle items will be on display.

The Friends of the Heath Free Public Library Inc. Annual Book Sale will be open on Friday, August 20, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., on Saturday, August 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and on Sunday, August 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



**THE HEATH HERALD
WILL BE ON SALE DURING
THE FAIR AT THE FRIENDS
OF THE HEATH FREE
PUBLIC LIBRARY'S TENT**

Heath Ladies Aid 2010 Quilt Raffle



The Raffle drawing will be held during the Fair on Sunday, August 22, at 3:30 p.m. Until then tickets, 1 for \$1.00, 6 for \$5.00, will be available from Ladies Aid members and on the Midway at the Fair.

Proceeds from the Raffle and from the two yearly sales go to fund scholarships for Heath graduating college-bound seniors and for donations to local organizations.

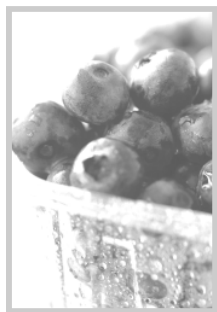
PTP Booth at the Heath Fair

Look for the PTP booth at the Heath Fair and sign up to enter the popular watermelon-eating and blueberries-and-cream-eating contests (for children and adults). For just adults there will be the exciting skillet toss and boot toss contests. This year we'll have new and different games to play--a fidget ladder kids can climb to ring the bell, a dime toss and quarter drop, a guessing jar, a basketball game, and a beanbag toss. We'll also have a hat/visor decorating craft. The PTP hopes to have a bake sale along with some healthy snacks.

Can't wait to see you all there!

~ Lyra Johnson
School-community Relations

Harvest and Hiking at the Benson Place



By the time you read this page, Ted Watt and I expect that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will have purchased an APR (Agricultural Preservation Restriction) on our low-bush blueberry farm. This program pays farm owners the difference between the value of their property for development and its farm value in exchange for obtaining a permanent agricultural covenant on productive land.

This June we granted a trail easement to the Franklin Land Trust (FLT). The easement will offer long-term walking, skiing, and snowshoeing access for all respectful users to particular farm roads and paths. Access will be offered to long distance views and to close-ups that include the former location of accomplished landscape artist Robert Strong Woodward's studio and the Benson Family cellar hole, which is where Hannah and Squire Benson lived from 1815-1857.

Over the past several years, we worked with consultants to consider forming a cooperative business here and arranging for community land trust ownership of this property. We learned about multi-stakeholder cooperatives, which can include representation from consumers, workers, and other cooperative businesses. We explored how a land trust can own property which it in turn leases to a cooperative business. For a variety of reasons, we are unable at this time to put these structures into practice here, but we appreciate them as great approaches to land tenure.

HUGE THANKS to all of you who have donated money or time to support this year's work! We do continue to seek funds to support project costs that have been incurred by FLT and our various project volunteers. Visit www.franklinlandtrust.org to inquire about making a donation to this project or to the Heath Fund. And please consider buying raffle tickets at the farm on a "Forever Farmland" fly fishing rod, constructed by loyal farm customer Dave Turner of Hatfield.

Weather hit this year's berry crop pretty hard, but there may still be some fruit left by this reading, so feel free to call. This week we learned that the Benson Place was named as one of 1000 Great Places in Massachusetts! Visit <http://massvacation.com> for the scoop. Our Ninth Annual Blueberry Jubilee will be held on Saturday, August 7, from 2:00-8:00 p.m. Come enjoy great food, homegrown music, and a Lavender and Blueberries Cooking Demonstration at 3:00 p.m. by the folks from Stockbridge Herb Farm in South Deerfield (www.stockbridgeherbs.com). At 4:00 p.m. Woodward's biographer Janet Gerry will offer a tour of his studio and painting sites and sign copies of her wonderful young person's book, *Artist Against all Odds*. At www.robertstrongwoodward.com you can see Woodward reproductions and get information about the September 25 exhibition in Buckland of a number of his original works. Woodward note cards and prints as well as berry-related items will be sold at the farm during August.

Last year low-bush blueberries from Heath were included in Bart's Ice Cream, Wonderfully Wild Blueberry Spread, berry pies and pancakes at the Heath Fair, and at fund-raisers held at

the Heath Elementary School. I hope for more of the same this year and for a great harvest for everyone!

~ Dave Gott

Great Baseball Season

2010 was another great season of Little League baseball in Heath!

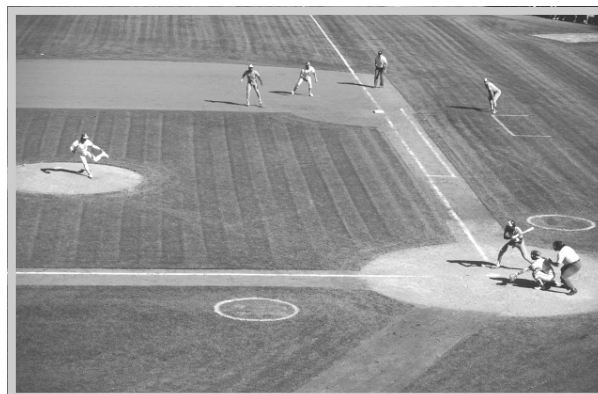
Once again, we needed to field two rookie league teams, the Allstars and Highlanders, and one major's team, the Heath/Rowe Mariners. This, in addition to our sister team, the Rowe Blue Jays, who our ballplayers in the younger division faced in four spirited and well played contests. The following is a wrap of some of the season's highlights:

- ◆ In 2009, Mariners player Emma Lonergan was the girl to make one of the tournament teams that play squads from towns all over Massachusetts and Northern New England. This year, in the last game of the regular season, one of her teammates, Enid Gallagher, was the first member of, what some of us affectionately refer to as the Sisterhood of The Traveling Cleats, to hit a home run! And congratulations to Highlander Alouette Batteau who became the first girl in either league to pitch from the mound!
- ◆ If seven year-old Allstar McGrady Crossmen had been on the field when Enid hit her dinger, he may have set women's baseball history back twenty years. McGrady made a play in deep center during the Allstars playoff game that those of us who witnessed it will forever simply refer to as "the catch!"
- ◆ The Mariners made it to the post season finals where they lost to a strong White Sox team, and sent five players to the selective traveling teams this year.

This particular group of ballplayers ended their careers with three trips to the championship and a lifetime of wonderful memories.

Finally, a big shout out to our loyal sponsors, the Heath Fire Department and Seaver & Sons—Thank you!

~ Jonathan Diamond



Heath Finance Committee

In recent weeks the Heath Finance Committee (FinCom) has been discussing the issue of moving to a per-bag charge for waste disposal at the Town Transfer Station, popularly known as Pay-As-You-throw (PAYT). We have discussed PAYT with the Selectboard and with Jan Ameen, executive director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. We have also received and considered a thoughtful memo from Bob Viarengo making some suggestions for how we could proceed short of adopting a full PAYT program. We haven't reached any conclusions yet, but we're getting there.

While we remain of several minds on this complicated issue, we do agree on a series of steps the Town could take either as part of a PAYT program or as part of a trial period during which the Town would make extra efforts to reduce both the amount of waste it generates and the cost of its disposal before taking the final decision on PAYT.

We have urged that revenues and costs directly generated by the system – transfer station sticker fees (if these continue), revenues from bags or bag stickers (if and when PAYT is adopted), recycling and scrap metal sales, tipping fees, transportation, the Transfer Station attendant's salary, and other directly related costs – be paid into and out of a dedicated waste-management fund that would be used for no other purpose.

We raised the idea of a dedicated waste-management fund to the Selectboard because of the opportunity it could provide for good decision-making about how to finance our waste-disposal needs and what to do with monies collected from fees related to the Transfer Station. We are continuing to consider the dedicated-fund approach but for now are requesting that the Selectboard consult with us in advance about any use of the Heath escrow funds held by the Waste Management District. We have also asked the Selectboard to provide us with monthly reports on this fund similar to the monthly reports we receive of Town revenues and expenditures.


Apart from the dedicated waste-management fund, we have recommended to the Selectboard the following steps, which, again, we think can be taken whether or not the Town moves to PAYT at this time. We have adapted several of these from the Bob Viarengo memo.

1. All use of the Heath Transfer Station would be restricted to Heath taxpayers, with special arrangements for renters (proof of residence at the time stickers are purchased).
2. Stickers would be printed on different colored stock every year, and residents would have their auto registration numbers inscribed on the sticker at time of purchase. Residents would be allowed to purchase second stickers, as is now the case, but at a higher fee than the present second-sticker fee.
3. The Transfer Station would no longer receive bulk waste that is not in bags unless the bulk waste is accompanied by a special, one-time sticker at a cost of \$3 available through the Post Office.
4. Heath residents with regular disposals of contractors' bulk waste would be required to purchase a special annual sticker for this purpose at a higher rate than for regular stickers.
5. Pending further consultation with Mike Smith, the Town would accept an offer from Dave Freeman to place a composting facility at the transfer station.
6. A collection point for deposit bottles and cans would be placed at the Transfer Station. The FinCom will discuss with the Volunteer Firemen's Association the possibility that it would maintain the facility and take part or all of the profits.
7. The FinCom will look into the cost and feasibility of installing a second compactor at the Transfer Station for paper waste, and will make a recommendation to the BOS on this issue.

The foregoing items are only recommendations; the Selectboard has the final say on these matters. The FinCom may prepare an article for the 2011 Annual Town Meeting asking the Town to set up the dedicated fund for waste management.

We expect that the PAYT issue will continue to get much of our attention in the coming months, and to solicit the views of townspeople on how we can move forward. We would like to see a town committee on this question established, but we need indications of a broader range of interest than we've seen so far.

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



Reduce
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Library Lines

New Arrivals



By Donald Purington

A Few of the New Items at the Library:

Adult Fiction Books: *Burn* by Nevada Barr, *Corduroy Mansions* by Alexander McCall Smith, *Tinkers* by Paul Harding (2010 Pulitzer Prize for fiction), *I Curse the River of Time* by Per Petterson, *Beachcombers* by Nancy Thayer, *As Husbands Go* by Susan Isaacs, *Spies of the Balkans* by Alan Furst

Adult Nonfiction Books: *Garden Insects of North America: the Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs* by Whitney Cranshaw, *Fast, Fresh, & Green: More Than 90 Delicious Recipes for Veggie Lovers* by Susie Middleton, *The Best of It: New and Selected Poems* by Kay Ryan (Poet Laureate of the United States 2008-2010)

Audio Books on CD: *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson (Book 1 in the *Millennium Trilogy*), *Still Life* by Louise Penny (first book in the Chief Inspector Gamache mystery series)

Young Adult Fiction Books: *Northward to the Moon* by Polly Horvath, *As Simple As it Seems* by Sarah Weeks, *The Kane Chronicles: Book 1: The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan

Children's Books: *A Dignity of Dragons: Collective Nouns for Magical Beasts* by Jacqueline Ogburn, *LMNO Peas* by Keith Baker, *The Birthday Ball* by Lois Lowry

DVDs: *Avatar*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*, *Town Called Panic*, and *Best of the Beverly Hillbillies*. (Please consider donating your used DVDs to the library. You may not want to watch it again, and it could be enjoyed by many of your neighbors if it was part of the library collection.)

Music CDs: *Rise & Shine* by Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars, *Tennessee Pusher* by Old Crow Medicine Show, *Chicken Ain't Chicken* by the Sweetback Sisters (they will perform at the Heath Fair on Sunday at 2:00 p.m.), *All Together Singing in the Kitchen* by the Nields (children's folk music)

New Magazine Subscriptions: *Time*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Mothering*.

Passes: We have free admission passes for *MASS MoCA* in North Adams (admits up to 2 adults and 2 children (under 16)) and the *Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art* in Amherst (admits up to 2 adults and 4 children) Also, a Parking Pass valid at most of the Massachusetts State Parks. The museum passes were purchased for the library by the *Friends of the Heath Free Public Library*.

Speaking of the *Friends*, be sure to visit their used book sale tent at the Heath Fair. This is their largest fund-raiser of the year and they appreciate your support!

Heath Public Library Summer Crafts Program



Children ages 2 to 12 enjoyed some hands-on creativity at the Community Hall during the Library's four-session summer craft program. Parents and children worked together to make enchanting elf and fairy houses/scenes, which will likely be on display at the Fair. Wooden ships were built and then brought to Hazel Wilmeth's for their maiden

voyage. Homemade harmonicas and mobiles made from natural and recycled materials were also created.

With the theme this year being "Go Green at your Library" we chose to use mostly recycled and found objects in nature as materials. Special guest Pat Leuchtmann came and taught us about worm composting and how to set up our own worm farms. Between 6 and 13 children were in attendance at each session. Many thanks to parents for your help and enthusiasm!

~ Lyra Johnson
Assistant Librarian



Photos by Lorena Loubsky-Lonergan

Heath Business Directory

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

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

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Town Nurse News

I'm Here for You



By Claire Rabbitt, RN

I just want to remind Heath residents that the availability of a Town Nurse is a service provided by your town, and hope more of you will take advantage of it. Although the office hours are limited to Tuesdays, 12:15-1:15 p.m. and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., I am available eight hours a week to see you in my office or your home. Please call me at 337-8309 to schedule an appointment, if my office hours don't work for you. The office number is 337-4847.

In a life threatening emergency you should always call 911. For health related questions regarding new diagnoses, medications, and understanding hospital discharge instructions, or if you're not sure if you or a family member need to see the doctor, I may be of assistance. If you were recently discharged on insulin and would like reinforcement on the procedure for drawing up and injecting or in doing finger-stick blood sugars, I can help. For anyone uncomfortable speaking to their healthcare provider on the phone, I can do an assessment of the problem and relate the information to the doctor or NP, always respecting privacy and confidentiality. As well as checking vital signs, I can check oxygen saturation, heart and lung sounds, neurological status, and gastrointestinal assessment. For anyone on coumadin, I have an INR monitor that will check the INR from a finger-stick blood sample.

I have educational materials on smoking cessation, diabetes, heart disease, and fall prevention, and will work with you to make lifestyle changes to improve your health. I also have booklets on resources for home care and nursing facilities in Massachusetts. I will do whatever I can to assist you with your healthcare needs and possibly save you an unnecessary trip to your doctor or hospital.

Heath Historical Society

The Annual Meeting of the Heath Historical Society will be held on Saturday, August 28, at the Heath Union Church, and will be preceded at 5:00 p.m. by a sit-down supper featuring a delicious Chicken Casserole in the lower level of the church. We have to guarantee the number of persons, though, so **reservations are an absolute must**. Please contact Carol-Anne Eldridge at 337-8425, or e-mail at caenh@aol.com, by MONDAY, AUGUST 23, or sign up at the Fair in the Solomon Temple Barn. The cost for an adult is \$10.00 and children under 12, \$4.00. **You may pay at the door, but you must make a prior reservation!**

Following the Annual Supper and Meeting, upstairs in the church, this year's speaker will be Michael Coe, professor emeritus of Yale University, world traveler, and author of several books on the Maya Civilization. A longtime, part-time resident of Heath, he has been a member of the Society's Board of Directors for many years. His talk will be entitled *2010 A.D. – End of the Universe? Or Not?*

The Annual Raffle

The Society will sponsor a raffle again this year during the Fair.

- **First Prize** will be an exquisite quilted "Throw" 54 in. x 75 in. This beautiful handmade quilt by Marcia Tiernan in the "Stack 'n Whack" pattern with variegated thread on the back will be on display during the Heath Fair in the Solomon Temple Barn.
- **Second Prize** will be a half-gallon of local maple syrup.
- **Third Prize** will be your choice of any book on the Society's Publication List.

You may purchase raffle tickets at the Solomon Temple Barn during the Fair or at the Annual Meeting before the drawing. Single raffle tickets will sell for \$1.00 or you may get seven tickets for \$5.00. You need not be present to win but we do hope you will attend the Annual Meeting and supper and support the Society.

Selectboard's Report

The Board will be meeting every other Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall, unless posted otherwise. Scheduled dates are: 8/9, 8/30, 9/13, and 9/27.

Carpenter Award

The Carpenter Award is presented by the Selectboard to a student living in Heath who, in the judgment of the sixth grade teacher and principal, has attained through perseverance academic and social success. This year's recipient is Hope Lively. Congratulations on your achievement, Hope.

Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)

The Selectboard hosted a meeting at the Heath Elementary School on June 7 to discuss the establishment of a Pay-as-You-Throw system for the Transfer Station. The Board has been concerned about the low rate of recycling and increasing volume of trash. Jan Ameen, the Executive Director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, presented information about the volume of trash, metal and recycled materials from the Transfer Station and comparative data from other towns in the district. The conclusion of her data indicated that towns with PAYT systems tended to have much better recycling rates than those that did not.

Jan fielded a few questions from the audience and listened to ideas for increasing recycling without PAYT. Some in attendance were not in favor of any change to the current system. A straw poll showed a majority not in favor of the change. Jan offered her assistance to anyone who was interested in pursuing ideas for improving the rate of recycling. A recycling committee was suggested. So far no one has offered to serve on it. The Board met with the Finance Committee to hear and discuss their report on the economics of the PAYT system in Heath. It was agreed to sell stickers for FY 2011 season and to consider what to do about PAYT at future meetings. The Board met with the Finance Committee on July 12 to further study the Pay-as-You-Throw idea. It was determined that the problem was the need to decrease the solid waste disposed of by reducing, reusing, and recycling. The Board formed a five-person Solid Waste Reduction committee to study the matter and report their recommendations to the Board. Anyone willing to serve on the committee should contact the Town Coordinator at 337-4934, ext. 0.

Three-Town Landfill

The Board has been meeting with the Charlemont and Hawley selectboards to discuss an order from the State Department of Environmental Protection to improve the maintenance, and provide additional oversight, and testing of an abutter's water supply in Charlemont. The towns are finalizing an agreement with an environmental engineering firm to assist in complying with the DEP order.

New Loader

The highway department has taken delivery of the new Komatsu front-end loader that was approved at the Annual Town Meeting.

Community Hall

The Community Hall rules for use have been updated to include a new Temporary Food Permit for the Community Hall use in the event that food will be served to the public. Private functions are exempt. This permit is required by State law and the Board of Health. The Community Hall application for uses may be obtained from the Town offices or by contacting Dolly Churchill of the Hall Committee.

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. 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. A new Web page is being developed and will be launched as soon as it is ready.

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



Selectperson Sheila Litchfield congratulating Carpenter Award winner Hope Lively.

Photograph by Val Lively



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Weis Acres

The Cure-All for Whats Ailin'Ya

By Le-Ellen Pettengill Weis

My father always had his own way of dealing with whatever happened to be ailing us. He called it the "trials and tribulations of life." He would say, "Suck it up and deal with it the best you can." Dad had a tough upbringing in Maine with my grandfather who was a no-nonsense "man's man" who worked hard all his life and believed that you should get the job done no matter what! Soooo...Dad followed his dad's rulings and one of the main things Dad swore to was the fact that a bottle of iodine would cure anything that was hurting us so we could move on and finish whatever we were tasked with. He would say no sense of complaining as it didn't get the job done and there were going to be plenty of knocks to us in life. (My husband hates it when I tell him this. I give him no sympathy when he gets hurt! Get the iodine out and he runs!)

Now my Mom, a nurse mind you, would always have the sympathetic ear to listen to our woes, mop our tears, and bandage us up...gently. Needless to say, my brothers and I would always try to sneak off the job that we got hurt on and run to Mom before Dad knew of our ailment. Dad couldn't understand why we did this. This was a man who tied our loose teeth to a doorknob with a string and gleefully slammed the door shut!! How proud he was of us for being so brave! Well, actually, the boys never cried...I did. And I always ratted Dad out to Mom as Dad always managed to "take care of the problem" when Mom wasn't around!! As I grew older, I realized this strategy of Dad's was to not get caught by Mom for being so tough on us!! As you know by now, Mom was always yelling "RAYMOND!" and trying to save us from his ministrations!

Perfect example of an iodine episode. My Grampy had a camp on the lake in Maine that we would go to every year since we were born for Dad's two-week summer vacation. No electricity, no running water, a woodstove. The lake was the bathtub with a floating bar of Ivory soap, and the outhouse ALWAYS had a bat in it when ever I had to go there! My big brother, Michael, was assigned the role of my protector and had to clear out the outhouse for me. (I think he hated me for being such a sissy as he would call me). Well, one year Dad figured Michael was old enough to cut wood with him with a handsaw that Dad personally sharpened...each and every tooth. "By gum," he'd say, "if you want something to cut then it should cut good!" Anyway...with Mom's dire warnings to take care of Michael ringing in his ears, and Dad telling Mom to "stop ya fussin', he'll be fine" coming back at us, off they went. You guessed it! Michael managed to cut half a finger off! Dad held the finger together while patting his pocket looking for his iodine bottle, praising Michael for being so brave and only whimpering a bit. Dad's famous words of "this'll cure what's ailing ya" while proceeding to pour the iodine upon the finger.

I'll tell you this...the mountains of Maine never before and never again will hear the echoing sound of screams that they

heard that day, both from Michael and then Mom! We never did see a bottle of iodine again, and Dad was known to brag that the finger didn't get an infection either (though he only said it when Mom wasn't around!).

Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection



The District is holding its annual hazardous waste collection on **Saturday, September 25**, locations TBA. The collection is free to residents of Heath. Businesses must pre-register with an inventory of their items and will be charged for disposal.

This annual collection provides residents an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, household cleaners, pesticides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, fluorescent lamps, automobile batteries, and other household chemicals. For a complete list of acceptable items, please refer the District's Web site:

www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html.

To participate, residents must pre-register by September 17. Registration forms will be available in local newspapers, at town offices, at town transfer stations, and at:

www.franklincountywastedistrict.org

"CLEAN SWEEP" BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

The District is holding its fall "Clean Sweep" bulky waste collection on **Saturday, October 16**, from 9:00 a. m . until noon, locations TBA.

District residents may bring a wide range of items such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris, computers, monitors, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other bulky items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible.

Residents do not need to pre-register for this collection. However, there are charges for disposal. Disposal fees, in cash only, will be collected at the site. A complete list of prices for the most common items will be available at town halls, town transfer stations, the District office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield, and online at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. Businesses may participate.

For more information on either event, contact the District office at (413) 772-2438, visit: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org, or email: info@franklincountywastedistrict.org. *MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.*

~ Amy Donovan
Program Director

Milestones

Gail Shepherd Atkins of Hawley died on July 12, 2010. Born on September 13, 1942, in Montclair, NJ, she was the daughter of Edwin and Janet Shepherd.

The family moved to this area when she was two. She attended local schools and graduated from Charlemont High School. In 1961 she married Carlos Atkins in Heath. Among her many activities, she served on the school committee of the Mohawk Regional High School, as the first EMT in Hawley, and as an EMT with the Town of Charlemont Ambulance.

In addition to her husband of 49 years, she is survived by her son Daniel of Hawley; two daughters, Wendi Cronk and Lauri Bassett, both of Greenfield, Tara Desroches of Norridgewock, ME, and Mandy Jillson of Charlemont; two brothers, **Lee Shepherd** of Heath and Andrew Shepherd of Leyden; two sisters, Lynne Robinson of Watertown, NY, and Janet Brooks of Troy, NY; 13 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Charlemont Ambulance Association, c/o Dana Johnson, P.O. Box 139, Charlemont, MA 01339, or to the American Diabetes Association, 1701 North Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA 22311.

Chester W. Kaiser of Heath died July 10, 2010, at Linda Manor Extended Care in Northampton. Born on June 10, 1932, he was the son of Henry and Genie May Ward Kaiser. He was a self-employed logger.

He is survived by two sons, Kenny and Hank Kaiser; four daughters, Shirley Crites, Lynn Brunner, Amy Hicks, and Caroline Kaiser; a brother, Ward Kaiser; a sister, Dora Emerson, and two grandchildren.

In Memory of Our Friend Alton

On May 2, 2010, **Alton W. Churchill** died after a short illness. Born in Heath on August 14, 1926, he was the son of Max and Sara Churchill. He had two brothers, John and Ralph (both predeceased him) and two sisters, Betty Rainville of Shelburne Falls and **Judy Clark of Heath**. He was educated in local schools, attended the Heath Union Church, learned to play the guitar well, playing for local functions with his cousins. After school he drove a truck for the Heath Highway Department. Alton was the first Heath native to earn a private pilot's license, doing so at age 17. He joined the military and had further training flying observation planes and also was with the Seabees building airbases in the Pacific arena during World War II. After returning to the States a fellow serviceman introduced him to Betty Beck whom he married in 1947 and they had a son Charles Alton and a daughter Sara Elizabeth. They lived most of their married life in Lexington, NC, where he did construction work and part-time piloting. His friendly, outgoing personality and his flair for trying any new adventure will remain in the fond memories of his family and his many friends.

*~ Howard Dickinson, Ada Duffy,
Pearl Churchill, and Ruth Johnson*

Requiescat in pace

Joshua Franklin, son of **Gary and Susan Kolodziej Clark** of Heath, was born on July 10, 2010. He is the grandson of Jean and Chet Kolodziej of Sunderland and great-grandson of Peggy Liguz of South Deerfield and Leo Lashway of Sunderland.

Heath People in the News



On June 15, **Tim Lively** of Heath and **Eileen Lucas**, formerly of Long Island, NY, were united in marriage at the Heath Union Church, with the Reverend Murray Newman officiating. Following the ceremony, a reception was held at the Heath Fairgrounds.

Tim is the invaluable man of all work at the Heath School. Eileen, a fiber artist and watercolorist, was the first Artist-in-Residence at the Rowe Camp & Conference Center.

Welcome Home, Cal!

Cal Carr is now home recuperating from surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital, in Boston.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Heath Ladies Aid Scholarships Awarded

The Heath Ladies Aid awarded scholarships to the following Mohawk Trail Regional High School graduating seniors from Heath: The Catherine Cromack Memorial Scholarship of \$700 to **Stephanie Craig**, and \$500 scholarships to **Christie Almeida, Cory Dale, and Cooper Marsh**.

In addition, Stephanie was awarded a Carl H. Nilman Scholarship of \$500, a Mohawk District Education Association Scholarship of \$300, the Keith G. Bille Memorial Scholarship of \$200, and a Fred Wells Scholarship.

Christie was awarded the Franklin County Rotary Scholarship to Greenfield Community College of \$750, the Charlemont Lions Club Scholarship of \$300, and the Linda Neil Memorial Journalism Scholarship of \$250.

Cory Dale was awarded an Arms Academy Scholarship of \$500, and Cooper Marsh a Carl H. Nilman Scholarship of \$150.

Congratulations!



*Welcome back,
Heath School Staff and Students!
Best wishes for another
banner year!*

“I teach in a building that is beautifully designed. One of its special features is that it feels bigger on the inside than it looks from the outside. I would like our work to be like our building, making us bigger on the inside....I want to have our own sacred class time where children have the leisure to explore, share, discuss, and work together.”

Deborah Porter
From Rules in School
Northeast Foundation for Children, 2003

Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Rain</u>	<u>Snow</u>
From May 11, 2010	2 "	
June	4.7 "	
To July 10	1.25 "	

In this reporting period:

So far this reporting period has turned out to be rather dry compared to last year. We did have an early taste of summer on May 26 when the temperature was 91 degrees. A couple of thunderstorm events, with lots of strong winds, thankfully missed us, but hit our neighboring towns to our east, around the end of May. June had a lot of nice weather. Things got REALLY hot and humid around July 4 with temperatures hovering in the low to mid-nineties for several days, cooling down with rain on the 10th.

~ Tim Lively

Community Calendar

August 2010

August 05 - Senior Luncheon, Community-Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

August 07 - 9th Annual Blueberry Jubilee, Benson Place, 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

August 19 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

Fair Exhibits Accepted at Exhibit Hall, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

August 20, 21, & 22 – 93RD HEATH FAIR

August 23 - Week of, MTRHS Guidance Office Open for Schedule Changes and New Student Registration

August 28 - Heath Historical Society Annual Meeting , Heath Union Church, 6:30 p.m., and Supper, 5:00 p.m., Church Lower Level.

August 30 & 31 - MTRHS Staff Days

September 2010

September 01 - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Early Release, MTRHS, 11:45 a.m.; Heath School, 12:45 p.m.
No kindergarten.

September 02 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

September 02 & 03 - MTRHS, Full Days ; Heath School, Half Days until 12:45 p.m., No Kindergarten

September 06 - Labor Day – No School

September 07 - All Schools Full Day

Heath School Kindergarten, Half Day

September 08 - All Schools, All Grades, Full Day

September 15 - Schools Early Release Day, MTRHS, 11:45 a.m., Heath School, 12:45 p.m.

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

September 17 - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

September 22 - Autumn Equinox

Mohawk Middle and High School Open House

September 23 - Heath School Open House, 6:30 p.m.

See You At The Fair

*Thanks to the human heart by
which we live.*

*Thanks to its tenderness, its
joys and fears.*

*To me the meanest flower
that blows can give
thoughts that often lie too
deep for tears.*

William Wordsworth
(1770-1850)

English Poet

From *Ode, Intimations of Immortality*



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

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

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