



HEATH HERALD

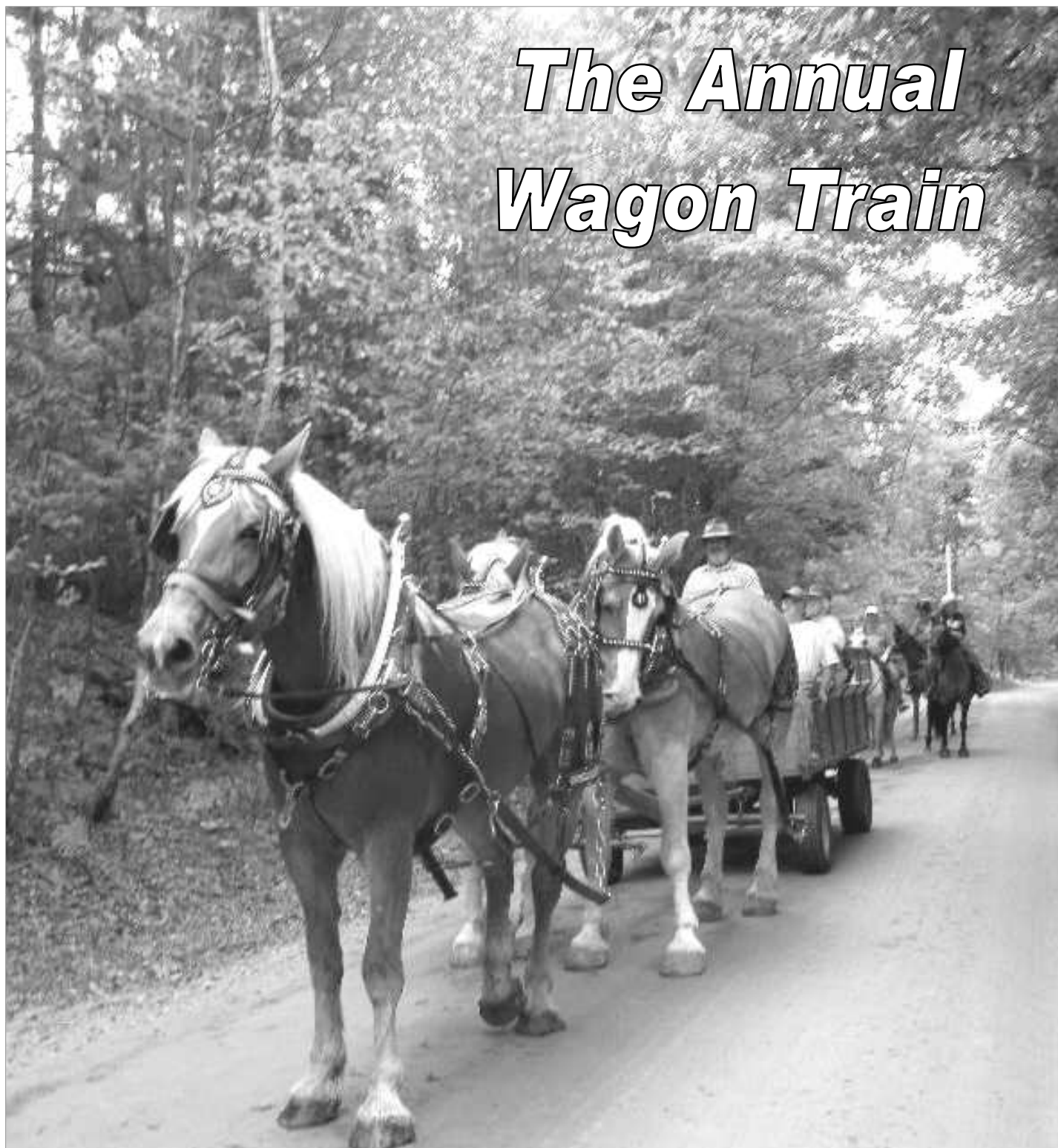
Heath's First Newspaper

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The Annual Wagon Train



Heath Herald

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Heath Union Church News

A potluck meal was enjoyed on September 5. There was no Family Night in August, but on September 26 Chief Margo Newton of the Heath Police Department explained the services it renders for our Town and discussed ways to remain safe in our homes. On October 24 Chief Mike Smith of the Heath Fire Department will inform those attending of ways to prevent fires as well as demonstrate some firefighting techniques. The Family Night in November will be a Movie Night. Look for the date to be posted on the Church bulletin board.

On August 15 the morning worship service was conducted at Pelham Lake in Rowe with baptisms as part of the service. Following this the annual picnic was enjoyed at the Park.

As usual, our worship on August 22 was held at the Heath Fair. We will be having a Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00 p.m. on November 24.

The congregation is very pleased to have the exterior of the Church so bright and shining thanks to volunteers from the Franklin County Jail, who power-washed it during the week of August 18.

Pastor Grant is most willing to meet for consultations upon request. He will be on vacation October 9-23. Calls during that period may be forwarded to any of the Deacons.

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

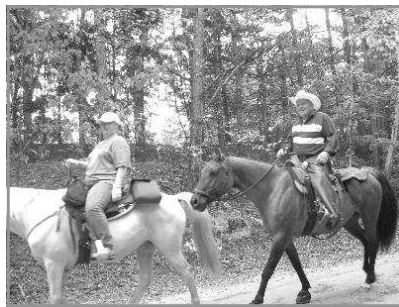
Tracey Brooks, 624-8905

Ruth Johnson, 337-4367

Walt Gleason, 337-4479

~ The Deacons

Cover Photo



The first wagon train took place on October 10, 1981, and began a Heath tradition that was much beloved by the late Carroll Stowe, wagon master and *Heath Herald* columnist.

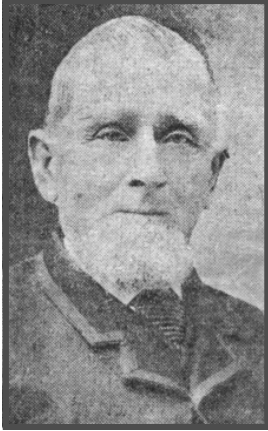
On September 25 and 26 this year's wagon train wound its way through the colorful Heath hills ending up as always at the Heath Fairgrounds.

***Age is an issue of mind over matter.
If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.***

~ Mark Twain

Franklin County Bible Man

"The best rule through life, I think, is 'Behave yourself.' Life is really worthwhile, and this is a good world we live in."



Squire Benson at 90 years of age had been a reporter for thirty years for the Greenfield "Gazette and Courier" as its Heath correspondent. This publication was sometimes known as the "Franklin County Bible." In speaking to the Gazette at 90 years old he said it was his first trip to Greenfield in ten years. "Yes," he said, "I was born in Heath and I have always lived there, never paid taxes anywhere else. My father was Squire Benson and I was one of seventeen children. Squire is my name and

not a title....I have never used liquor, but I do like cider, and I make a barrel every year and I drink a glass of it every day...I don't use tobacco..I was what you might call an old line Whig, and then a Republican. But I always vote exactly as I want and nobody ever bought my vote and nobody ever will. I don't like this fight between Teddy and Taft. I think it is beneath them." (What would old Squire think of the rancorous political harangues of today?)

Squire first voted for president in 1844, casting his ballot for James Knox Polk, a Democrat. Ever afterwards up to the first Woodrow Wilson election he never failed to vote for the Democratic candidate every four years. All told he voted for eighteen presidents, infirmities of old age having kept him away from the polls in 1916. He died in 1918 at the age of 92.

Squire Benson Jr. was my great-grandfather who lived in the house that belonged to his wife Elvira Buck's parents. The house was regarded as an old dwelling close to a century old in 1850. It was where my grandparents, George and Sarah Stetson, lived and where my parents, Herbert and Beulah Hager Stetson, lived and where I was born in 1925. It was along what is now known as Route 8A North in North Heath. It burned in 1958, and I retired to the farm in 2004 in a home my son Jeffrey Buchiane had built up hill from the original dwelling.

I have been enjoying newspaper clippings collected by my grandmother, Sarah Benson Stetson. Squire was what you might call a "gadfly," visiting the neighbors, getting the latest gossip for his "Gazette" column which he wrote with a flourish and a keen sense of humor. He had a keen interest in the local schools and education, often a speaker at the Lyceums at the Branch and North Schools. In 1887 he was appointed truant officer for the town and was quoted, "So look out, boys, and attend closely to school."

In a 1903 clipping: "S. Benson has commenced making ropes from flax into halters and other kinds of rope. Anyone having flax they would like disposed of in the rough or other

ways, can do so by informing S. Benson of North Heath."

Squire came by his interest in schooling naturally. His father, Squire, fourth child of Barack and Sarah Buxton Benson, was "a man of good education wrote and read a great deal. He was covetous of well-stored minds for his children and had as many as eight attending school at the same time. He was always pleased to see them reading or studying. He, Squire Sr., built the old Benson homestead on Burnt Hill where most of his children were born. He delighted to visit schools, and whenever he saw a schoolhouse he always entered and gave the children a kindly talk as well as 'quiz' them. (This information supplied by David Gott of Benson Place, a distant cousin of mine.)

The earliest Bensons came from Southampton, England, in the ship "Confidence" settling in Hingham Massachusetts in 1638. Eventually the family spread to Connecticut and Rhode Island. (More on the Bensons at a later date.)

I was reflecting on these Benson ancestors this past Memorial Day when I visited their graves as I do annually. With me on this occasion were my grandson-in-law and his two children, my great-grandchildren. It occurred to me then, even though they will not be buried here in Heath, they represent eight generations of Benson descendants, six of whom lived and/or still live in Heath

The picture of Squire Jr. is from the "Greenfield Gazette and Courier" at time of his ninety years as a reporter,

~ Lois Stetson Buchiane



COMMUNITY HALL CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, November 6
10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Morning Coffee and Lunch
will be served downstairs in the
Senior Center

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Settling Down in this Remarkable Town Part II

Getting Started

Karen and I both thought we'd been hardened two years earlier in the crucible of Italian country living, May through August, in a 300-year-old renovated stone mill without electricity (we used kerosene lamps), with only cold water from a gravity-fed spring (we heated water on the propane stove), and only the Tuscan fireplace for heat during a very chilly May (we cut small firewood with our Swiss Army knife sawblade). But all that was the Park Plaza compared to our Heath house in February.

Simpson, the previous owner, had cut down a wide swath of sheltering trees to the west, the better to have an artist's view of Mt. Greylock and the horizon at sunset. This meant the howling winter wind could gather full momentum from the distant environs of Mt. Greylock before slamming without mercy into the side of our unprotected house.

The first thing we did was go to Rugg Lumber. We bought rolls of 6 mil polyethylene and a staple gun, and put up a vapor barrier. We also bought more fiberglass insulation to fill the gaps where the previous owner had simply stopped. In the ell, because he had nailed up shiplap interior walls, we first had to take the shiplap off, then staple the plastic onto the studs, then replace the shiplap. That helped a little; at least it cut down on the drafts.

I believe I mentioned there were no cupboards or cabinets to speak of? Simpson had left an old, weathered wooden cabinet, on the outside of which someone had painted an enormous squirrel; inside the door was another painting, 1940's-style, of two women in bathing suits. This became our pantry/refrigerator. We didn't buy a refrigerator for at least two months, as the house was consistently cold enough to keep food from spoiling at room temperature.

But what of the water supply? There was – and is – a lovely set well (spring-fed well) about twenty feet west of the ell; it's cylindrical with a two-foot diameter and depth of maybe ten feet. We bought an enamel canning pot, tied a rope to each handle, and lowered it into the well to pull water up, which we – usually me – then carried into the house. Until the weather warmed, we often had to drop the canner into the well forcefully, to break the ice on top.

For those – ahem – other needs, we bought another canner, put a toilet seat on it, then carried the contents into the woods when we were done. Hey, animals do it.

By that time we were becoming friends with folks at Rugg Lumber, and arranged for them to deliver a mountain of gypsum board (Sheetrock™), luckily when the driveway was still frozen, as a little brook runs beneath it during mud season. We spent countless hours measuring, cutting, and nailing the stuff (adhesion-by-screw wasn't yet in the picture), hoping it would make a tiny difference in how cold the house was. Karen got to be an expert taper, though my efforts were less exacting.

I can't remember the first time I met Howard Thompson, down the hill across from the town garage. At some point during sugaring that year, Howard invited us to a sugar-eat at his place. That was when we met his wife Joyce; Howard asked her in our presence if she'd met us yet. Her response was perfect: "Heard of 'em." Daughters Brenda, who Howard called "Blondie," and Beverly were there, too. As we ate sugar on snow with pickles, Karen and I told of our slow progress at the house, and of the cold. Howard mentioned that he and Joyce slept under an electric blanket, then said, "I think I've got something in the attic that might help." A few minutes later he came down carrying the soapstone-with-wire-bail he used to warm his bed as a kid. "Put it on the stove," he said, "but careful of the bail once it's hot; you could always tell the kid who forgot that, when he came to school with a big ugly burn mark across his hand...."

Next Steps

As the weather warmed, Karen and I took basically a graduate program in house-building. Arnold Purington came to look at our plumbing. Both he and Howard Thompson gave me instruction in sweat-solder techniques. Donnie Ward came for some hands-on DWV repair, then gave me brief lessons – both in person and over the phone – about how to do it ourselves. Gerry Jubinville did the same with the supply tubing. For Christmas, 1973, Karen's father had given us a hand-drill (non-electric), knowing we were looking for a place of our own. When I decided that gift was a bit too primitive, we went to Sears in Greenfield. What a great store that was! One electric drill, tape measure, hammer, saw, level, screwdriver later, we were beginning to get up to speed in our home repair program.

Greenfield Supply was the source of considerable materials and information, primarily regarding plumbing ... though both of us, especially Karen, felt their staff to be fairly condescending to non-contractors. At some point in the early spring we discovered Spag's, in Worcester ... technically Shrewsbury. Many was the time we filled our VW Squareback with wire, ductwork, tools of all kinds, tubing both copper and PVC, plumbing fittings, electrical fixtures and other supplies.... So cheap it was well worth the drive to Worcester. In those days Worcester also had the only known metal recycling center, so we saved all our flattened cat food and other cans to take every time we went to Spag's.

It's important to note that we were trying to live as inexpensively as possible. Although the Internet was years away from being invented, we had *The Whole Earth Catalogue*, -- the Internet of the 60s and 70s. And although the term "living off the grid" was also years away, we were trying to approximate that. The image that sticks in my head is of Karen and me pulling down 2x4s and 2x6s so we could put walls and ceilings in different places ... and then pulling the nails out of those old framing members, and *saving* them – not just saving,

("Settling Down in this Remarkable Town" continued on page 9)

Green Thoughts

Small Trees for Shade



By Pat Leuchtman

Even though we live out in Heath where most of us have sizeable lots, or even acreage, there are times when we want to add a shade tree closer to the house where we can enjoy the shade on a hot summer day, but do not want a majestic tall tree that may seem out of scale. Recently, a neighbor admired my four ginkgoes which are about ten-feet tall and asked if they were going to be good shade trees, or if I had any other suggestions for just such a tree.

I pointed out that two of my ginkgoes are columnar and will never be very good shade trees. On the other hand, two of the trees have a much more horizontal growth pattern. When I talked to Lilian Jackman, the knowledgeable gardener and owner of Wilder Hill Gardens, last year, she pointed out that her ginkgoes also have these two growth patterns. She said she was told they reflect the different sexes. Ginkgoes are dioecious, like hollies, but she didn't know whether this was true, and if it was, whether the tall trees were male, and the spready trees female. I don't either, but it is an interesting theory.

Whenever I visit Tony Palumbo's garden in Colrain I admire the katsura (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) tree. Although it sounds exotic, the katsura is hardy to zone 4, which is minus 30 degrees. If it is trained to a single trunk, the katsura grows slimly and gracefully as a young tree, until it begins to mature in 15 years or so and starts spreading a generous canopy of beautiful heart-shaped leaves. Like the ginkgo, katsura trees are male and female. According to Joseph Hudak in his book *Trees for Every Purpose*, the male tree tends to be more columnar while the female spreads herself more broadly. Perhaps just like the ginkgo?

It was Thomas Hogg, a United States consul in Japan, who first brought the katsura tree to the Arnold Arboretum more than a century ago. In Japan the katsura grows to great height and is an important timber tree and valued because its wood is so handsome in cabinetry and paneling. Here in the Northeast, it never reaches a great size and is valuable in the landscape as a small shade tree with beautiful color beginning with purplish red in the spring, changing to green and finally to brilliant shades in autumn. However, the fall color is very dependent on local conditions, whether it will be more gold or more yellow or more orange. It should not be planted where it is very dry.

Closely related to the katsura are the redbuds (*Cercis*). Most of them are listed as hardy to zone 6, but *Cercis canadensis* 'Columbus' which grows to a height of 30 feet with an equal spread, is hardy in zone 4. It blooms in the spring with bright pinky purple flowers. It also has heart-shaped foliage.

I've been trying to think of other small shade trees. As a person who loves blooming trees, I was quick to think of crabapples which rarely reach a height of more than 25 feet and provide beautiful bloom in the spring, and shelter and suste-

nance for the birds in other seasons. *Malus* 'Prairiefire' not only has bright rose pink flowers, the foliage is red to bronze, and even the bark is reddish. The fruits are bright red. 'Sugar Tyme' crabapple is a dependable crabapple with white flowers and bright red fruit on a 15- to 20-foot tree. It is very hardy and disease resistant. Crabapples bloom in every shade from white to pink to red, but most have bright red fruits. If you want the bloom without the fruit there is a non-fruiting crabapple named *Malus* 'Prairie Rose'. It bears double pink blossoms, but no fruit.

When I think of spring flowering trees I always think of flowering cherries. Most of these reach a height of about 20 feet. *Prunus* 'Shirogugen' is a little taller, possibly reaching 25 feet with very wide horizontal growth. The late blooming flowers are white to pink and known for lasting quite long before falling like snow on the lawn.

The American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) will grow to a height of between 20 and 30 feet. Grown in the sun, the canopy will be dense throwing wonderful cool shade. The fall color is faintly orange to yellow. Also known as 'ironwood,' this is a slow grower.

We are surrounded by majestic maples, but the hardy Amur or Tartarian maple is quite small, about 20-feet or so tall with an equal spread. It has a dense canopy that will turn beautiful shades of red in the fall. It can either be grown with multi-stems, or trained to a single trunk.

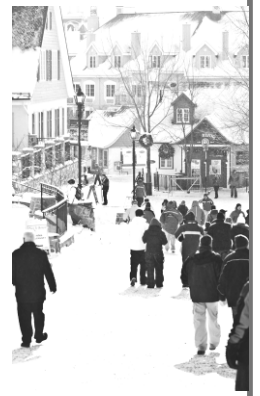
Finding a tree, or any plant, that meets your own desires and the requirements of your site can always be done, but you may not find what you want and need at a local nursery. Understandably, local nurseries will carry the most popular and therefore most saleable plants. You may need to research specialty catalogs. These days those catalogs can often be found online with a Google or Bing search. In any event, the first step in getting what you want, is to know precisely what it is that you want. The second step is persistence in research.

Charlemont Federated Church Holiday Village

The Holiday Village of the Federated Church of
Charlemont will be held on
Saturday, November 13, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Village will feature a Treasures Table, sale of local crafts including special Christmas ornaments, baked goods, and a Silent Auction of items donated by local merchants and craftspeople.

Coffee will be available for sale in the morning and lunch at noon.





Wild Ramblings

Two Hounds in the Woods



By Bill Lattrell

Fog rolled through the early morning woods as it often does on these cool late summer mornings. Even from the ridge top with steep valleys of forests below I have no distant views. To be sure I treasure great vistas on clear days but on these mornings when views are no longer than a few hundred yards it makes me focus on what is immediately in front of me. Dew dropping off leaves makes a “plip-plop” noise on the first few dry leaves that have fallen to the ground. Leaves, once green, are already morphing to bright yellows, reds, and oranges. Still nowhere near the full color of autumn, I am surprised by the changing colors that will deepen as the cold weather moves in from the north over the next month.

On this day I am accompanied by my two dogs. They are both red bloodhounds. The male, who we refer to as Cooper (after James Fenimore Cooper who wrote *The Last of the Mohicans*) has a black mask that covers his nose and the area below his drooping eyes. Adaia (pronounced A-dye-a), the female bloodhound in our pack, is all red save a white star on her chest from which she gets her Abenaki name which means “dog star.” Adaia is on a leash held by my right hand. Like many bloodhounds she will take off at the first hot trail. It makes no difference if it is human or animal, she stays on the trail until she catches up with the object of her olfactory obsession. This isn’t a problem if it’s an animal that hides in a hole or climbs a tree. She can easily be located by her baying which can be heard for miles. But if she catches the trail of a deer or coyote the chase could go on for miles. This is not a good scene for wildlife or for me, so she stays on a leash while we are in the woods. Cooper, on the other hand, is content to stick close by. He shows interest in hot trails but seems to have more will power when it comes to staying close to his pack mates. He has been known to stay with Adaia on a long chase however, and the result might then be two lost dogs. Although Adaia has never understood why Cooper is allowed to be free of the leash while in the woods she is still happy and content to enjoy walks in the woods and appreciates all of the associated smells.



As we approach an area of outcropped bedrock Adaia puts her nose to the ground, sweeps the area with her nose in the fallen leaves, whimpers and starts to pull ferociously on the leash. Her 120-pound muscled frame pulling with all four legs is formidable even for a large person like myself. I resist the strong tug but follow along to see what she is interested in. Cooper takes notice, puts his nose to the ground and all of the loose skin on his head flies forward. Bloodhounds are famous for their wrinkly skin and this feature is just one of the physical attributes that catches scent and keeps it in place for the bloodhound to consider. The long ears also sweep the ground and help to hold scents in place. The fact is that a bloodhound can smell far better than any other dog. It has olfactory capabilities that are tens of thousands of times those of the human nose. They literally smell a world that humans never experience. Cooper runs a bit ahead and goes behind the bedrock outcrop. He bays as only bloodhounds can do, sort of a howl and bark combined, and I know he is close to the item of his affections. Then there is a loud yelp.

Adaia and I move at full speed to catch up to Cooper. His yelp was loud, serious, and a sure distress signal. Adaia has the hair lifted along her spine and she charges in with me in tow to defend her pack mate. We turn the corner and there stands Cooper, head down, like he is being scolded for bad behavior. Adaia rushes past him and right to the base of a small hemlock. There, scurrying up the lower part of the trunk is a large porcupine. My first thought is “oh no” and I turn to look at Cooper expecting to see a face full of quills. Adaia has a different idea and is trying to climb the tree. She is still attached to my right arm and I have to pull with all my might to get her off the tree. She lunges again, this time just missing the extended quills of the porcupine. I pull back again, and this time I grab her collar with my left hand. The porcupine has now climbed out of reach and I know I can release Adaia and she will stand at the base of the tree holding the porky in place for hours, if necessary. I turn to Cooper, who still sits there with his head hanging down. I pull his chin up to get a better look, and, to my surprise, there is not one quill stuck in his loose skin. Cooper is not an aggressive chap, in fact you might say he is a shy but gregarious dog in most cases. We once witnessed Cooper surrounding a mouse in our house. He laid his 135-pound body down next to the tiny rodent, paws on both sides of the frightened little fellow, and tried to lick it. The mouse jumped at Cooper and he responded by jumping up in fear! To this day Cooper avoids mice.

Relieved that Cooper had not taken a face full of quills I refocused my attention on Adaia. She was fully upright, standing on her hind legs with her front paws pressed against the trunk of the hemlock. She barked, bayed, and whined. The poor porcupine climbed out onto the very tip of a branch and looked about for an escape route. There was none and so I pulled and tugged on

(“Two Hounds in the Woods” continued on page 19)

News from the Heath Historical Society

With the help of many the HHS has had a very active and successful year...

The asbestos roof on the Old Town House was replaced with 50-year asphalt shingles, the style of which is similar to those on the Center Schoolhouse. It was very expensive, costing nearly \$20,000. But with the help of the Dickinson Family Fund, the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, the Bank of Western Massachusetts (now the Peoples United Bank), and the membership of the HHS the mission was accomplished.

Membership this last year increased by 13 new enrollees and, since the Fair this past August, 10 more new members enrolled for a total of 23 new members since August 2009.

The weather at the Fair was great on Friday and Saturday and approximately \$700 was raised from the sale of books and raffle tickets, and collection of dues and donations. Sunday was a washout, but people still showed up. All in all, a great year at the Fair!

The Annual Meeting was held at the Heath Union Church on Saturday, August 28, 2010. It started downstairs with a well attended (42) and absolutely delicious dinner prepared by the Heath Ladies Aid, followed by a meeting in the Sanctuary. Officers elected for the coming terms were Nina Marshall (President), Eric Grinnell (Vice President) and Directors Lois Buchiane and Carol-Anne Eldridge. Curator Pegge Howland reported receiving 251 items of new material for the Society's holdings. The winners of the raffle drawing were Thomas Hale of Shelburne Falls (quilt), Deb Porter-Henry of Heath (half gallon of maple syrup) and Beverly Cable of Chester, VT (choice of book). The evening was concluded with more in attendance for Professor Michael Coe's intriguing presentation entitled "2012 A.D. – End of the Universe? Or Not?" The audience was treated to beautiful photographs and a fascinating discussion on the workings of the Mayan calendar, the importance of December 23, 2012, and speculation about the end of the world. Guess we'll see!

Work on the preservation of the Whittemore Spring on South Road continues. Important and expensive tests will be run this fall and next spring to determine its viability as a public water source. Tom Lively and Betty Nichols of the Town of Heath, Contractor Tom Danek of Rowe with assistance from Jack Cable, Howard Dickinson, and Todd Sumner have donated their time and energy to this task. We thank them for their due diligence.....

The Society thanks all its members and supporters for a great year, and we look forward to seeing you at future HHS events in and around the town!

~ Nina Marshall -President
Dave Howland -Treasurer

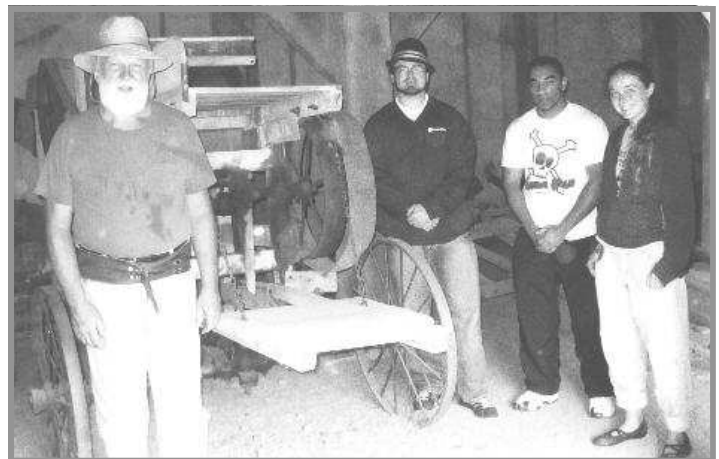
Apologies to Photographer Connie Jackman, mother of Val Lively and grandmother of Hope Lively, for incorrectly identifying the photographer of the great photo of Hope in the last issue of the Herald. Thank you, Connie!

Historical Society Hosts University of Hartford Students

Buck den Ouden, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Hartford and a longtime resident of Heath, and three engineering students visited the Historical Society's Solomon Temple Barn Museum on Sunday, September 19, to examine a threshing machine on display in the Barn's lower level. The students are designing a pedal-powered thresher for use by small farmers in the developing world. The Project is supported by *Engineers Without Borders* and the University of Hartford. One of the first places it will be field-tested is Kenya where most of the separating of grain from stalks is done by flailing the cut grain against a hard surface and then sweeping up the grain and cleaning it. One of many crops it is intended to thresh is amaranth which is a large genus of coarse herbs that is very high in protein and has very positive effects on the immune system. The thresher will be designed after the 1913 McCormick Deering Sterling machine that is housed in the Solomon Temple Barn. It is den Ouden's hope that the museum will be increasingly used as an educational resource.

Buck has worked on appropriate technology projects in Egypt, India, Bangladesh, Guatemala, The Dominican Republic, and Kenya. He has given lectures in over 20 different countries on small-scale sustainable technology and how these kinds of machines can enhance food production. Machines in this context should not displace human labor but fit a niche where there is significant post-harvest loss. It is den Ouden's contention that equipment which is appropriate in scale can enhance human dignity and freedom. In Kenya, many rural communities are cursed with high levels of HIV, and there is a shortage of healthy workers.

The 1913 Sterling thresher on display was owned by Mrs. Ethel P. Moors and was kept in the Manse's barns on Bassett Road. It was used on many farms in Heath. The Dickinsons and the Gleasons recall it being in operation powered by a small portable gasoline engine.



~ Buck den Ouden

Picture from left to right: Buck den Ouden, Alex Schettino, Ali Khatim

Jerry Ferguson

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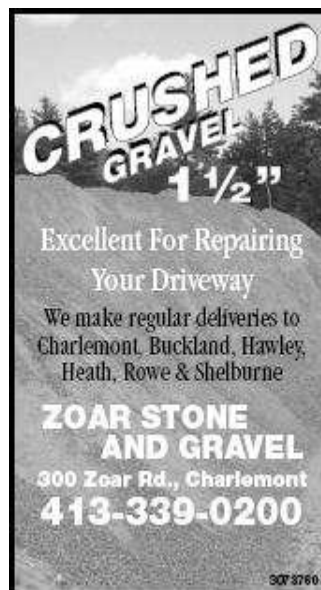
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(“*Settling Down in this Remarkable Town*” continued on page 4)

but *reusing* them. We reused *hundreds* of old nails, often banging them back straight after they’d bent when we extracted them. Partly this was on account of having been in Afghanistan for a month, and seen children mending teacups using a bow-drill; partly it was the *zeitgeist* – it was how we and many others wanted to live, as responsibly as we could.

Sometime that summer we shopped for a woodstove. Terry Krumm had left a cookstove – a great Village Crawford Royal, with water reservoir. At some point we installed it in the kitchen, using a Metalbestos™ chimney, which I’m proud to say never leaked, though it had to go through slate shingles. And we bought what was then the larger of the two available Jotul woodstoves, for heating the ell; this was vented through sheetmetal pipe up into the brick fireplace chimney.

That summer I bought a McCullough 16” chain saw, and started felling trees on the property in anticipation of the coming winter. In a similar vein, we bought a propane furnace from Greenfield Supply. We had already decided it had to go in the cellar, which was merely a dug-out place beneath the ell. For stability, and to protect against the water we’d been told would flow there during the spring, we laid a concrete slab and built a cinder-block room, about 6x8, on top of it. It was during this construction that I realized I had less than zero interest in ever doing masonry work again. Into this room we put the shallow-well pump, bought second-hand from a plumbing outfit in Sunderland, and the furnace. Joe and Norm Marcagianni (the Mack Brothers, out of Readsboro) were instrumental in helping install the furnace, mostly via good advice ... and I continued buying their propane, through son Dave, till the day I left Heath.

I don’t remember when we realized that water was going to seep through the walls of that subterranean room, and flood the furnace. Maybe it was after that actually happened, despite our having put considerable roofing tar and other non-porous materials on the outside of the cinder block. Whatever, I went to Taylor Rental in Greenfield and picked up a jackhammer. I made a hole in the concrete floor, and installed a sump pump I’d bought from Greenfield Supply, with plastic tubes that I hoped would carry the water, running out the cellar windows.

That summer and into the fall we put down pine flooring, built pine cupboards and cabinets, began work on another loft in the ell, put a ceiling up in the kitchen/dining area and in the downstairs bedroom. With Dick Sumner’s invaluable advice we rewired the entire house and upgraded it to 100-amp service. We installed two skylights. After Howard Thompson and his horses Dick and Augie plowed an area in the field out front (thank you, Bill Wolf, for permission to do so), we planted a 40 x 60 vegetable garden, in the design of an oriental prayer rug.

And although it still needed work – about another eight years’ worth before we felt we could just *live* there and not worry about the next project – in less than two years the house was in decent enough shape that we could invite Karen’s entire family up from New York for Thanksgiving.

Of course there was more; with a house there’s *always* more. For a time, before we painted the gypsum board, I wrote pithy sayings on it. One was from writer/radio personality Jean

Sheperd: “I wonder how many human lives have been destroyed by a house.” Dealing with ice dams and drifting snow and an impassable driveway and smoke backing up into the house and at least three chimney fires ... and building a woodshed and straightening the porch with a come-along ... and building a second floor and closets above the kitchen/dining area ... and, and, and.... But the above account is really of those first transition years – from when we didn’t know anything to when we knew enough to be amazed at what we’d done without knowing anything. We were young. We were foolish. We thought we could do it all. And in the end, stupidly, luckily, thanks to God or whatever, we mostly did.

Thanks to all

Karen and I lived in that house for eleven years before making a relatively seamless transition to the former Francis and Nora Galipo place on Burrington Road, where I remained another 24 years, much of it with my second family, the Sterlings.

This account would not be complete without at least naming a bunch of people whose help and/or friendship in those very early years was essential. In addition to the wonderful folks mentioned above, I think of others: Dick Sleeper, of whom Howard Thompson said, “He carpenters good;” Denny Avery, Marietta Kincannon, Mick & Linda Comstock, Bob Shields, Richard & Marlene Housner, Kathy O’Rourke, Joan & Tom Wilson, Fred Lively, his family, his barn, his critters, the Browns, Pat Smith, John Churchill, Ann & Steiny (when our Squareback died we borrowed their Beetle to drive to Northampton to have our baby [Siena], even though Anne was due the same time), Alan & Catherine, Art & Carol, John & Debbie, and of course many, many more as the years lengthened.... And some will understand when I say it was a poignant and deeply important experience to have known Steven Wolf.

So there’s my story. I sold my second Heath house on Halloween, 2008. I hope my tale stirs up the fire beneath other former urban refugees. I know from experience that many of you went through the same trials, the same transitions, the same learning curve, as Karen and I did. Posterity needs to hear these tales; they need to be in the books of record, attesting to a certain generation’s courage and ignorance. Many of you are now at or approaching retirement; there should be time to sit and write your history. I have three words for you: Get on it.

~ Michael Chrisman

This is a story about 4 people named everybody, somebody, anybody, and nobody. There was an important job to do, and everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure somebody would do it. Anybody would have done it, but nobody did it. Somebody got angry because it was everybody’s job. Everybody thought anybody would do it but nobody realized that everybody wouldn’t do it. It ended up that everybody blamed somebody when nobody did what anybody could have done.

~ Submitted by Ruth Corey

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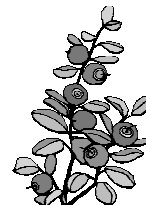
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Heath Fair News

Old Business

How did the Fair do? It a question we hear a lot and there is more than one way to answer it.

We had a record-breaking day on Saturday. An estimated 4000 people attended. In previous years that might have been the total for the whole weekend. Sunday, you remember, it poured. It was the only rain we had in August and it had to fall on the Heath Fair. It was a mercy, of course, because we really needed that rain. Plus, we were exhausted from Saturday so the lighter turnout was a bit of a relief.

The success of the Fair isn't just about the Agricultural Society bottom line. There are many organizations and individuals for whom the Fair offers an opportunity to promote their work and generate income. Ask the Heath Fire Fighters Association or the Heath Historical Society, The Friends of the Heath Library, the Heath Ladies Aid, and the PTP how they did. Or ask the many vendors and craftspeople how they did. By all accounts, they did well.

Even if you knew and could add up every penny all of us made together, though, you still wouldn't have a complete measure of our success. Take a look at the photographs Art Schwenger has put on disk at the Library and you'll get an idea of what I mean. You'll see picture after picture of families, friends, and neighbors having a wonderful time together. You'll see them bringing in their exhibits and putting up their scarecrows, showing their cattle and cradling their rabbits. You'll see them playing together in the sandbox and hula hooping to the music, working together at the food booth and the chicken barbeque. You'll see neighbors riding their horses in the rain and spread out on the hillside watching the truck pulls. You'll see them playing bingo, riding their antique tractors down the midway, and demonstrating their skill at sheepshearing and black-smithing and duck herding. (It's been suggested that next year we should see about having a duck pull.) There are even pictures of the fireworks and closeups of bright pink wave petunias. But the success of the Fair isn't just about what we make and all that we do (or even all we eat, though that's important.) It about the visiting and the people we see and it's here Art's photos really shine in portrait after loving portrait. Check it out!

Meanwhile, in terms of the bottom line, the Fair did about the same as it always does. We lost about \$2000 but took in enough to do the whole thing over again next year.

Damn Yankees

For the fifteenth year the Damn Yankees BMW Motorcycle Club (a.k.a Beemers) held their annual rally at the Heath Fairgrounds. They had a sunny weekend and a great turnout. They say they love Heath and over the years have shown their devotion by making generous contributions to many town organizations. This year they outdid themselves. \$2000 was contributed to the Heath Agricultural Association, \$1000 was contributed toward the renovation of the Community Hall, \$800 was given to the Heath Fire Fighters Association and \$300 each donated to the PTP, the Preschool, the Church, and the Library, for a total of \$5000. Thank you, Beemers!

New Business

After some two decades of service, Fair Secretaries Doug and Kathy Wilkins announced they are stepping down. They are the ones who receive and enter into the database all the Fair entries, organize the making of all the Exhibit Hall labels, and distribute the premiums. They are also the ones who brought this process into the computer age. Many thanks to both Doug and Kathy for all their years of service. They have said that they are willing to help train their successors. If you have interest and skills for this vital position and want to be nominated, please contact Pam Porter at 337-5525.

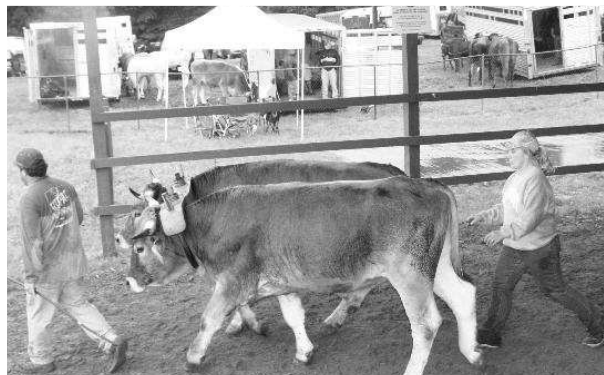
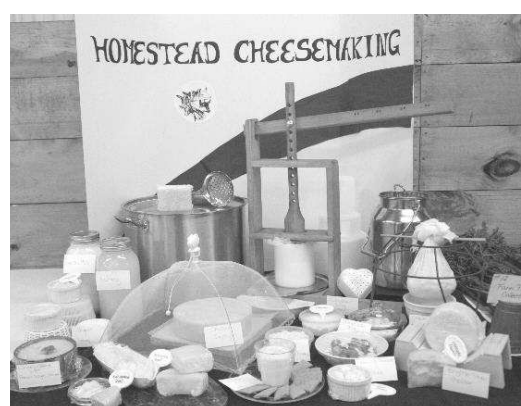
Annual Meeting

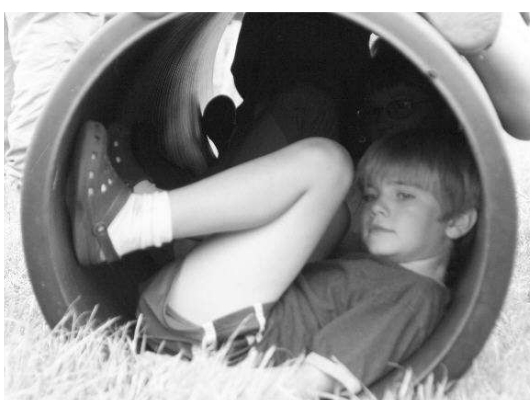
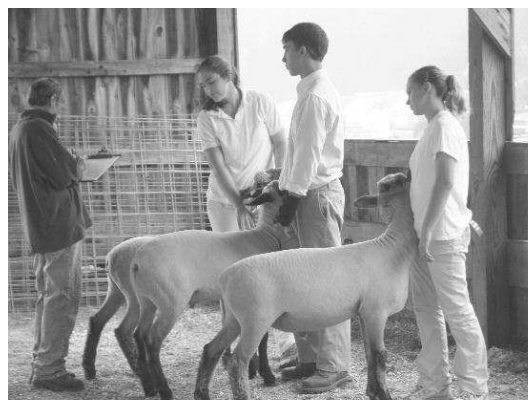
The Heath Agricultural Society Annual Meeting and election of officers will take place in early December rather than November this year. Nominations are now being sought.

The next regular Fair meeting will take place at the Heath School, Thursday, October 21, at 7:00 p.m.

~ Pam Porter

At the Fair





Photographs by Art Schwenger



By Jeanine Heil, Principal

The school year has gotten off to a smooth start. Students and staff have been working together to establish expectations for the year, teachers have been involved in a variety of professional development opportunities, and students have been engaged in many hands-on learning activities already within these first few weeks. We'd like to share some of our recent highlights.

The children and teachers have been working together to draft their *hopes and dreams* for the school year. Discussions have taken place around how we all can help each other make our dreams come true. Some of the hopes and dreams that students have shared have been reading longer books, being a better writer, learning about the Iditarod, learning to play soccer, and making new friends. These were shared in the Open Space on September 23.

The students have been enjoying the vegetables from the garden in the dining room. Each day the students are offered freshly harvested carrots (yellow, orange, and purple), beans, cucumbers, zucchini, and much more during their lunch time. We all can remember mom saying, "Eat your vegetables!" Well, the Heath students are asking for seconds!

Our Local Education Council (LEC) has been working diligently on the School Improvement Plan for the 2010-2011 school year. It will be available for review online within the next few weeks, so keep checking back.

And finally, enrichment activities for the students are underway. Soccer season has begun and the team has already been on the field practicing for their first game. Coaches Shane Brenizer, Carin Burnes, and Roberta Baker are leading this group of athletes. Go Team! David Tasgall, our strings instructor, has also started lessons. The sounds of our young musicians fill the halls!

So Heath School is happy to report that the students and staff are excited to be back, not to mention I am so proud to be a part of this amazing school community. We're looking forward to a wonderful year!

Heath School News

Our **Local Education Council (LEC)** is delighted to welcome on board as our newest community member, consummate educator and advocate Bob Gruen! We would also like to take this opportunity to give thanks for the exceptional dedication and creativity of Jorie MacLeod and Deb Porter who have given and continue to give our students and this community so much! They are passing on their LEC torches to 2nd grade teacher Virginia Gary and 5th grade teacher Meghan Bone. Welcome to you both! We are just winding up the annual revision of the School Improvement Plan. Staff, parents, and community members alike are excited to begin this year's educational adventure together!

Our school is the heart of our community ~ Our community

is the heart of our school. We endeavor to share with the students the value of service. Likewise, we wholeheartedly invite you to join us in our school projects whether in the garden, the woods, exploring history together, or visioning and mapping a sustainable future for our school, town, and watershed. Please call us with your ideas and skills you would like to share!

PTP Heath & Hilltown Artisan Catalog:

The Parent Teacher Partnership is producing a beautiful locally-grown fund-raising catalog in celebration of local artisans, craftspeople, and farms. Our goal is to support sustainable local gift giving this year while promoting the arts and helping raise funds for the school. If you would like to sell your arts/crafts or local harvest please contact Camille Freeman, 339-4239 or Lorena Loubsky, 624-3842 as soon as possible so we can get the catalog out in time for the holidays. We also have space available in a local business directory section if you would like to place an ad. For complete details and a registration form, e-mail Lorena at <mailto:wildelor@gmail.com>.

The PTP would like to send hearty thanks to retiring members Dawn Holden and Valerie Lively. Both brought creativity, fortitude, and humor to their tenure and will be missed! Stay tuned in to the next *Herald* for future enrichments, events, and meeting postings. Feel free to call the school anytime (337-5307) with questions or to attend one of our monthly meetings.

~ Lorena Loubsky



*Friends of the
Heath School Library*



**The Friends of the
Heath School Library
in conjunction with the
World Eye Book Shop
will hold its 9th Annual Book Fair
on Thursday, November 18
8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
in the Heath School Open Space
to benefit the School Library.**

*Children's Books,
a Selection for Adults,
and 2011 Calendars will be on sale.*

**Please come and take this opportunity to
support the library, purchase your holiday
books, and enjoy the children's enthusiasm.**

Books may be preordered by calling
Jane deLeeuw at 337-8594
by November 12.

NEWS FLASH For the Friends of Humphrey the Classroom Hamster!



Creator Betty G. Birney, who had visited the Heath School in 2006 and whose ongoing Humphrey saga* has found many readers both in the Heath School Library and the Heath Free Public Library, was asked to speak at this year's Edinburgh BookFest, which is part of the annual Edinburgh, Scotland, Festival in August.

Betty and Humphrey are also very popular in both Scotland and England as attested to by the enthusiastic welcome and large turnouts whenever she speaks. At this year's BookFest she spoke both at a public event as well as to school children bussed in from local schools, the latter in the largest festival venue. At both events, she signed a lot of books! She also found time to visit a local school to talk with the students.

Following the BookFest, Betty and husband Frank took a restful 10-day rail trip through the Scottish Highlands, some highlights of which were a trip to the Isle of Skye and to a "fabulous" bookstore in Inverness. They highly recommend this trip.

Betty reports that versions of the Humphrey books for younger readers are in the works and already published in England where the first will be featured as one of the books chosen for the Annual World Book Day. in March of next year. This is Humphrey's second appearance on this list.

As you can see from the accompanying photograph, the *Heath Herald* also went to Scotland. Frank and Betty are two of the paper's most loyal supporters!

If you haven't already discovered Betty's Web site and Blog, here is the address: www.bettygbirney.com.

~ Jane DeLeeuw

**The World According to Humphrey, Friendship According to Humphrey, Trouble According to Humphrey, Surprises According to*

Humphrey, Adventure According to Humphrey, Summer According to Humphrey



The Heath Community Hall Gets a Stage Lift



The Community Hall Committee is pleased to announce that Phase I of their plans to spruce up the Community Hall has been accomplished. The stage walls have been painted a "Starless Night" blue, and the old tattered stage curtains have been replaced with new burgundy colored ones, financed with money raised through Community Hall-sponsored events over many years.

With this portion of the plan accomplished, the Committee is hoping to raise sufficient funding to equip the stage with an audio system and stage lighting. If you are knowledgeable in either of these fields, the Community Hall would welcome your expertise and guidance to lead us in the right direction.

We are grateful to the Yankee Beemers who graciously donated \$1,000.00 towards the Committee Hall renovations this past August. The Committee is in the process of looking into purchasing material that will be used to make draperies that will be both decorative and energy efficient.

~ Eileen Tougas

Please join us on
Saturday, November 13
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POTLUCK SUPPER
5:00 p.m.
at the
Heath Senior Center
and a
ONE MAN SHOW
"And Now...Mark Twain!"
6:30 p.m.
Heath Community Hall



This program 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.



Library Lines

New Items at the Library



By Donald Purington

A Few of the New Items at the Library:

Adult Fiction Books: *Red Herring* by Archer Mayor, *Fall of Giants* by Ken Follett, *Bury Your Dead* by Louise Penny, *Hypothermia* by Arnaldur Indridason, *Rag and Bones* by James Benn, *Safe Haven* by Nicholas Sparks, *Thirteen Hours* by Deon Meyers, *The Postcard Killers* by James Patterson, *This Must be the Place* by Kate Racculia

Adult Nonfiction Books: *Grand Design* by Stephen Hawking, *Ghost Farm* by Pamela Stewart (poet from Hawley), *Mountains and Rivers* by Bob Richardson (author from Charlemont)

Audio Books on CD: *The Girl Who Played With Fire* and *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest* by Stieg Larsson (books 2 & 3 in the *Millennium Trilogy*), *Grand Design* by Stephen Hawking, *Indignation* by Philip Roth

Young Adult Fiction Books: *Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins, *The Lost Hero* by Rick Riordan, *The Danger Box* by Blue Balliet, *Extraordinary* by Nancy Werlin, *The Year Money Grew on Trees* by Aaron Hawkins

Children's Books: *Art & Max* by David Wiesner, *Happy Halloween* by Rosemary Wells, *Red Leaf Yellow Leaf* by Lois Ehlert, *Why do Leaves Change Color?* by Terry Allan Hicks, *Flora's Very Windy Day* by Jeanne Birdsall, *The Odious Ogre* by Norton Juster

DVDs: *Raising the Bar - Seasons 1 & 2* (American legal drama), *Babies* (documents the first year of life of four babies from four parts of the world), *City Island, America: the Story of Us*, *Date Night*, *Olivia Takes Ballet*

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Saturday, October 9

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October is National Apple Month



The health benefits of apples and apple products were first recorded as early as medieval times, giving rise to the old English saying "Ate an apfel avore gwain to bed Makes the doctor beg his bread" and its more recent variation, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Apples' healthy attributes have received considerable renewed interest recently, following the publication of several studies linking apple nutrients to an impressive range of health benefits. Apples and processed apple foods can be an important part of a healthy diet.

Thanks to the many apple growers of our region who treat us to a wide variety of apples, some old-timers and some new, and delicious cider.

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337-5340

Fred Burrington
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337-4302

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337-4705

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337-4460

Jerry Ferguson
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Lic. Electrician
337-4317

Earl M. Gleason
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337-4948

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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
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Town Nurse News

Preparing For Another Cold and Flu Season



By Claire Rabbitt, RN

As we see the falling leaves, the decreasing hours of daylight, and breathe in the cool, crisp air, it is time to prepare for another cold and flu season. I have noticed among family, friends, and the general public a lapse into old ways and hygiene practices, such as coughing and sneezing into bare hands. I think we would all like to avoid the discomfort and inconvenience of a cold or the flu. An ounce of prevention is still better than a pound of cure. I advise continuing to practice all the things we learned last year during the HINI epidemic.

1. Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands with warm water and soap for 15-20 seconds, rinsing with running water, and drying on a clean towel or paper towel. In a public restroom, use the paper towel to turn off the faucet unless it is the type that turns off automatically. At home, if someone is sick, they should use a separate towel, and hand towels should be changed every day. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers may be used when the hands are not visibly soiled. Apply the sanitizer to the palm and rub all over the surfaces of the hand and fingers until dry.
2. Remember to cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder, not your hands. If you cough into your hands, wash them before touching others or common surfaces, or preparing meals.
3. If a person is sick, they should stay home, avoid contact with others until symptoms improve and have no fever for 24 hours without using Tylenol, Motrin, or aspirin.

I still have copies of the booklet, *Flu, What You Can Do*, for anyone who did not get a copy last year or can't find their copy. I will post notices for the flu clinic when everything is in place for that. It may have already occurred by the time this issue of the *Heath Herald* comes out.

I continue to have office hours on Tuesdays from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and am available at other times by appointment. Call me at home at 337-8309 with your health-related questions.

("Two Hounds in the Woods" continued from page 6)

Adaia's leash until I got her away from the tree. It took some effort to drag this female hound away from her excitement, and, as I struggled, Cooper ran ahead. He couldn't get away from the porcupine fast enough. His tail between his legs he ran at full gait and finally stopped about 100 yards away where again he hung his head. Somehow I got the impression he was ashamed of himself.

When I finally managed to drag Adaia over to where Cooper was positioned she took one smell of his nose and licked a small area on the left-hand side of the muzzle. When Adaia pulled away I saw a little nick on the side of his nose. It was the tiniest of wounds. It occurred to me at the time that Cooper may have had his head down, furrows of skin covering his golden eyes, because he was sad. Like the mouse, the porcupine was not interested in being his friend. This was a very unhappy event from Cooper's perspective.

After getting Adaia's attention focused on her present surroundings we walked to the east. The fog was lifting but still obscured distant objects. Cooper stayed close to Adaia and me, occasionally lifting his leg on a rock or sapling to mark his territory. I laughed to myself as this seemed like an odd behavior for such an unaggressive hound. We hiked

over to a spot that has a 60-foot ledge. Cooper stayed about 15 feet away from the sharp drop-off while I pulled on Adaia's leash to keep her away from the very edge of the steep precipice. I found a mossy log and sat down to rest my weary legs. Cooper came over and put his head in my lap. Adaia smelled the air for new clues as to the presence of strangers in this dark forest. In the distant, the lone howl of a coyote shattered the silence. Cooper quivered and pulled his huge dog body against mine. Adaia lunged for the edge of the cliff and bayed back at the lonely wail in the distance.



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Selectboard's Report

Spring/Summer Meeting Schedule

The Board will be meeting every other Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall unless otherwise posted.

Town Coordinator

Gloria Fisher has resigned as Town Coordinator having served in the position for more than four years. She was instrumental in improving the work flow for the Board. (The meetings were over at 10:30 rather than 11:30 p.m.) We are grateful to her for all she has done to help us remain organized. Gloria and Mike Smith, our Highway Superintendent, together helped secure an enormous sum of money in reimbursement to the Town after several damaging storms through their persistence with the state's and federal agencies' application and accounting procedures.

The Board wishes Gloria the best of luck in her future endeavors and hopes that she will remain actively involved in Town activities.

While the Board has been seeking a permanent replacement, the position of temporary Town Coordinator has been filled by Margo Newton with special assistance by Eileen Tougas. Throughout the summer Eileen and Margo have made excellent progress on a long-term records management project. We are grateful to Eileen and Margo for their willingness to help out in this time of transition and especially to Margo for staying on a month longer than anticipated.

After interviewing several very fine candidates, the Board offered the position to Jenna Day of Heath. Jenna served as Town Coordinator several years ago and has been clerk for the Board of Health. She will be joining us in October. We look forward to working with her.

Three-Town Landfill

The Board has been meeting with the Charlemont and Hawley Selectboards to work out an agreement to acquire a parcel of land downstream from the landfill. There have been water-quality issues on this land for decades and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has demanded an increased response from the towns to monitor and correct the problem. A Special Town Meeting will be called this fall to ask the voters to approve an inter-municipal agreement and appropriation to cover Heath's share of the cost of acquiring the land and securing the property. The action will serve to satisfy the demands of the DEP and lessen the exposure to potential future liability claims for the three towns. Ongoing and ever increasing expenses for monitoring domestic water quality and maintaining a water-treatment system will end with the acquisition and filling of the well. The monitoring of ground water on and adjacent to the former landfill property and maintenance of the landfill property will continue for many years to come and will be an annual expense for the three towns.

Selectman Down

Sheila Litchfield injured her leg and ribs in a fall earlier this month and is recuperating at home. The injury was serious

enough to require surgery and physical rehabilitation. She may miss a meeting or two. Tom and Brian wish her a speedy recovery and will be in consultation with her about the issues before the Board until she returns.

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. The new Web page is up and running. Please have a look and let us know what you think.

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

FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE! HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is administering deferred payment loans on behalf of the town of Heath. Income eligible applicants who qualify for a full-deferred payment loan will be able to borrow up to \$30,000.00. This is a 0% interest, deferred payment loan, the loan is secured by a lien placed on your property, and the loan is due when you sell or transfer the property. The goal of this program is to enable low to moderate-income homeowners to bring their homes into code compliance. Examples of eligible work include: Roof replacement, foundation repairs, electrical and plumbing, windows, wells, septic replacement and much more!

Homeowners must have an annual gross income equal to or less than the following amounts:

<u># In Household</u>	<u>Gross Annual Income</u>
1	\$43,800.00
2	\$50,050.00
3	\$56,300.00
4	\$62,550.00
5	\$67,600.00
6	\$72,600.00
7	\$77,600.00
8	\$82,600.00

If you are interested in receiving an information and application packet please contact: Charity @ (413) 863-9781 ext. 132 or cday@fchra.org

**WELCOME, JENNA DAY!
HEATH'S NEW TOWN COORDINATOR
A JILL-OF-ALL TRADES**



As Jenna explains it, she has had three distinct career paths, Community Organizing and Development, Professional Food Service, and Carpentry Assistant. She worked for Housing and Redevelopment for four years with subcontractors and budget, was head cook at Green Fields Market for four years, and of late, at McCusker's Market, and has assisted her carpenter husband Jeff off and on, most recently doing the finishing work on their

Heath house. In addition, she has served the Town as temporary town coordinator, as a member of the Board of Health for two years, and currently as an election worker. And, in 2008, using her formidable organizing skills, she ran the Midway at the Heath Fair.

Born in Waterville, Maine, she is the youngest of five children of a close family. Her parents, in addition to their day jobs, had a catering service from whence comes her interest and expertise in food service.

Seven years ago, she and husband Jeff, who had met at the Housing Authority, were looking for "a place to land." First they rented a cabin in Buckland, and then came to Heath, bought a house, and were welcomed by "very nice neighbors." They are "thrilled to be here" and, she emphasizes, she regards all Heathans as neighbors. The household consists of Jeff, Jenna, and Otis, a wire fox terrier

Jeff hails from Anchorage, Alaska, but, having family in central Massachusetts, chose to attend the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Jeff's father now lives in Arizona and the couple, inveterate baseball fans, go to visit him during baseball spring training.

Asked what she does in her 'leisure' time, Jenna said she is an outdoors person, in the winter, an avid cross-country skier, in summer, a volunteer gardener for two farm shares, and a walker in all seasons.

She will assume her new post early this month. She says she "loves the building," knows she will enjoy her new working environment, and, she adds with a twinkle, the easy access to the basketball court.

We wish Jenna all the best, congratulate the Selectboard on its wise choice, and look forward to seeing her great smile about the place!

~ Jane deLeeuw

Weis Acres



Ole'Blue

By Le-Ellen Pettengill Weis

My Dad was a pretty regimental kind of guy with the rules of the house. Rules for the way how things were to be handled, rules for the kids, and rules for the animals. He always expected all of us to listen and do what we were told. That meant the dog too. We had a blue-tick beagle named Ole' Blue. Best dog we ever had! Dad was pretty proud of the way he had him trained too. Ole' Blue ate when told, walked when told, laid down when told, went to do his "business" when told, (too bad he wasn't trained to clean it up when told), sat when told...well, you get the drift. Dad used to say it was too bad his four children weren't more like Ole' Blue.

Dad loved nature. All animals. He frowned on the killing of animals, and was definitely a tree hugger. So when he said he was going to walk the woods with the dog to teach him how to find his way home, should the need ever arise, he slung a shotgun over his shoulder for protection, said goodbye to Mom who, of course, reminded, "Raymond, you be careful with that gun and be home for dinner!", Ole' Blue sitting like a statue at his feet awaiting the command to go out like the wonderful dog he trained him to be! He asked if any of us four kids wanted to go with him and we all said we had homework to do just as four well-trained children should have responded. (Right). We all scattered before we got stuck with any chores to do as we didn't know how long he'd be gone! Dad left telling the dog he was just going for a nature walk and he was to NOT run after any animals! Of course Ole' Blue wiggled and said he'd behave accordingly. Excuse me, but does anyone know what the very nature of a blue-tick beagle is? It is to HUNT!! They love it! Lo and behold, just as they rounded to corner of the house there were several deer coming out of the woods to cross the field. Dad and Ole' Blue stopped, they both looked at the deer, then at each other. Dad said, "Don't do it," and Ole' Blue's eyes said, "I have to! I'll be right back!" He took off after the deer and Dad raised the shotgun yelling for him to stop! We all heard the ruckus and went running outside in time to see our hero shooting our dog right on his backside with buckshot! Ole' Blue yelped, hopped and skipped back to us, and Dad spent the next hour with a pair of pliers pulling out that buckshot muttering about, "Not listening (pull) to (plunk) me (pull). I (plunk) told (pull) you (plunk) to (pull) not (plunk) chase (pull) those (plunk) deer. I guess (pull) this'll (plunk) teach (pull) you (plunk) to (pull) listen (plunk) to me!"

Now...what do you think THAT scene did to us four untrained children?! From that day on we sat when told, ate when told, slept when told, actually did our homework when told....never knowing if Dad would shoot buckshot into our hind ends! We even stopped sneaking out at night! (right). If you believe all I've just said, I have a bridge in Brooklyn I can sell you cheap!

By the way...Ole' Blue never did chase deer again, but he'd be damned if he was going to let that big yellow bus Ernie Thane used to drive by everyday go by without nipping at ITS heels! I'll bet Alli heard Ernie complaining about Dad's well-trained dog for years!!

Milestones

Alice Lucile Dresser Howes of Ashfield died on September 4, 2010. Born in Northampton on September 5, 1918, she was the daughter of Francis (Frank) and Harriet Hewes Dresser of Goshen.

She attended Goshen Grammar School, graduated from the former Helen James High School in Williamsburg, and took a post graduate course at Smith Vocational School in Northampton. She held a number of position through the years, the last of which from 1980 until her death was as salesperson for Avon Products.

Her husband Gilbert (Bud) Howes predeceased her. She is survived by three daughters, Lana Helems of Northampton, **Linda Cobb of Heath**, and Margo Dupont of Holyoke; a brother, Frances Dresser, of Goshen, and five grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the Highland Ambulance Service EMS, Main Street, Goshen, MA 01032 .

Requiescat in pace

Births

Dominic Luis Pazmino born on August 8, 2010, son of Rick and Cari Palmeri Pazmino of Buckland; grandson of Meg Palmeri of Shelburne Falls, Jack Palmeri and Fred Pazmino both of Greenfield, and Denise Palmeri of Gill, and great-grandson of **Luis Pazmino of Heath**, Frances Palmeri of Shelburne Falls, and Donald Grogan of Greefield.

Mason Jay Weis was born on September 17, 2010, son of **Dawn Weis**, grandson of **Le-Ellen and Peter Weis**, and great-grandson of **Terry Pettengill**, all of **Heath**.

Heath People in the News



Lois Stetson Buchiane pictured displaying the latest copy of the *Heath Herald* at Ruthin Castle in northern Wales, UK. She and her sister, Muriel Antes of Conway, were on a British Landscape Tour that began in London, proceeded to Cambridge, York, Gretna Green, and into Edinburgh, Scotland. They were fortunate to witness a performance of the "Military Tattoo" atop Edinburgh Castle- a most

spectacular event! From Edinburgh they returned to England traveling near Hadrian's Wall, through the Lake Country, and into Wales where they spent the night at Ruthin Castle with its lovely gardens and ever-present peacocks. From Wales they returned to England; two nights at Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon, then Bath, and finally a visit to Stonehenge and back to Heathrow for their return trip to Boston. A most exhausting, but delightful trip!

Brian DeVriese and **Pamela Porter** announce the engagement of their son, **Timothy Porter-DeVriese** to Busara (Jun) Khongchai of Udon Thani, Thailand. Jun is daughter of Mrs. Jumpa Khongchai and stepdaughter of Mr. Wassana Thappitak . The wedding will take place in Thailand on November 14, 2010.

Selectperson **Sheila Litchfield**, following a fall and bone breakage, is at home recuperating and, as of this writing, is feeling much better since helped by the kindness of many friends and relatives. We wish her a speedy recovery.

The Heath Ladies Aid **HOLIDAY SALE**

Heath Union Church
(Lower Level)

Saturday, November 6
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

*An array of craft items,
things for Christmas, and
baked goods for sale*

CROP HUNGER WALK

Sponsored by the Church World Service

*Neighbors walking with neighbors
to take a stand against local and
world hunger.*

Saturday, October 17 at 2:00 p.m.
United Church of Conway

*Pledge sheets and more information
will be available at the Charlemont
Federated Church.*

Heath Cultural Council

As a reminder, our annual grant application deadline is coming up on October 15. Applications are available on Mass Cultural Council Web site: www.massculturalcouncil.org/applications/lccapp.html and may be mailed to us or dropped off at our box at Town Hall. We are also happy to e-mail you an application or answer any questions you may have.

Community input is always most welcome to guide us in our grant-making and community arts projects. If you have ideas to share or would like to come to our fall meeting, please call Lorena Loubsky at 624-3842. New members and visitors are always welcome. If you are excited about bringing the arts and cultural events into our hilltown, please join us!

Here are some highlights of programs we have funded in the last couple of years: Deerfield Riverfest, Heath School Drama, Heath Agricultural Society Music, Mohawk Trail Music Concerts, WINK – a school literary journal, Heath's own *Heath Herald* Newspaper, Heath Library Summer Crafts Program, Mark Twain Historical Performance and more. A full list of our grantees is available on the state Web site: www.mass-culture.org/Heath

Ideas that have yet to bear fruit, but being contemplated, include: a Heath Historical Quest, a Heath Artisan & Studio Tour and a Heath juried Art Show. All of these are wonderful ideas brought forward in our most recent community survey. We would be delighted to consider community-based applications along these avenues! We look forward to hearing from you!

~ Lorena Loubsky
Summer Barkoskie
Rachel Porter
Janis Steele
Lisa Wexler

Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Rain</u>
From July 11, 2010	1 ¾ "
August	2 ¾ "
To September 10	1/10 "

In this reporting period:

Even though gardens did well, the second half of the summer was very warm and dry with less than 5" of rain, with the heaviest amount occurring on the Sunday of the Fair.

~ Tim Lively

Community Calendar

October 2010

- October 06** - Schools Early Release Day, Mohawk, 11:45 a.m.;
Heath School, 12:45 p.m.
- October 07** - Senior Luncheon,
Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
PTP Meeting, Heath School, 3:30 p.m.
- October 08** - Heath School All School Hike
Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- October 09** - Friends of Heath Library Bake Sale Sawyer
Hall Porch, 9:30 a.m. – noon.
- October 11** - **Columbus Day – No School**
- October 13** - PSATS at Mohawk, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Heath School, School Pictures
- October 14** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
- October 20** - Schools Early Release Day, Heath School, 12:45 a.m.
LEC Meeting, Heath School, 3:30 p.m.
- October 21** - Heath Agricultural Society Fair Meeting,
Heath School, 7:00 p.m.
- October 22** - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- October 25** - (week of) Mohawk Booster Week
- October 29** - Franklin County In-Service Day, No School
- October 31** - **HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!**

November 2010

- November 02** - **General Election, Senior Center,**
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- November 04** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center,
11:45 a.m.
- November 05** - PTP Meeting, Heath School, 3:30 p.m.
Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- November 06** - Heath Ladies Aid Holiday Sale, Heath
Church, Lower Level, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Community Hall Craft Fair
Morning Coffee and Lunch, Senior Center,
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- November 07** - Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 p.m.
- November 09** - Early Release Day, Heath School, 12:45 p.m.;
Parent-Teacher Conferences
- November 10** - Schools Early Release Day, Mohawk, 11:45 a.m.
Heath School, 12:45 p.m., Parent-Teacher Conferences
- November 11** - **VETERANS DAY – No School**
(The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month -
ARMISTICE DAY, WW I.)
- November 13** - Charlemont Federated Church Holiday
Village, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Potluck 5:00 p.m. and "And Now...Mark Twain!"
6:30 p.m., Heath Community Hall/Senior Center
- November 18** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center,
11:45 a.m.
Friends of the Heath School Library Annual Book
Fair, Heath School, 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- November 19** - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- November 24** - Schools Early Release, Mohawk, 10:50 a.m.;
Heath School, Noon, No Lunch
- November 25** - **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!!**
- November 26** - **No School**

Thanks for time to be together,
turkey, talk, and tangy weather.
H for harvest stored away, home and
hearth and holiday.
A for autumn's frosty art, and
abundance in the heart.
N for neighbors, and November, nice
things, new things to remember.
K for kitchen, kettles' croon,
kith and kin expected soon.
S for sizzles, sights, and sounds and
something special that abounds.

That spells THANKS for joy in
living and a jolly good Thanksgiving.

Aileen Fisher
Children's Book Author
(1906-2002)



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

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

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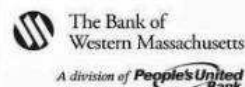
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