



VOLUME 19 NUMBER 2

JUNE/JULY 1997

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

50¢

HEATH GRADUATES

Thirteen Heath students graduated from Mohawk Trail Regional School this year. Their names, colleges, majors or intended careers are listed below:

Keith Cerone will attend Greenfield Community College and plans to have a music or sculpting career.

Jason Clark plans to work and then retire. Jason says: "Thanks for everything Mohawk".

Carrie Croteau is taking a year off, after which she plans to go to college to become a marine biologist.

Colin Gruen is going to UVM, where he will study private outdoor recreation in the Natural Resources Department. He would like to work outside and to own a professional bike touring company. Colin says: "I want to thank the Peaces for their undying love and devotion to the youth and their lives".

Kathy Kendrick is going to Western New England College for pre-medical, majoring in Biology. She plans to become a pediatrician and to be very happy. Kathy says: "I want to thank all my friends and family for helping and loving me. They have helped to make me who I am now and who I will become."

Tucker Litchfield plans to attend Greenfield Community College. He plans to become an oceanographer or get into an earth science field.

Justin Lively plans to work and travel. He hopes to fulfill a number of goals, one of them being building his own house.

Andrea Lucid is going to a Baptist Bible College to study child psychology. Her future plans include teaching and mission work.

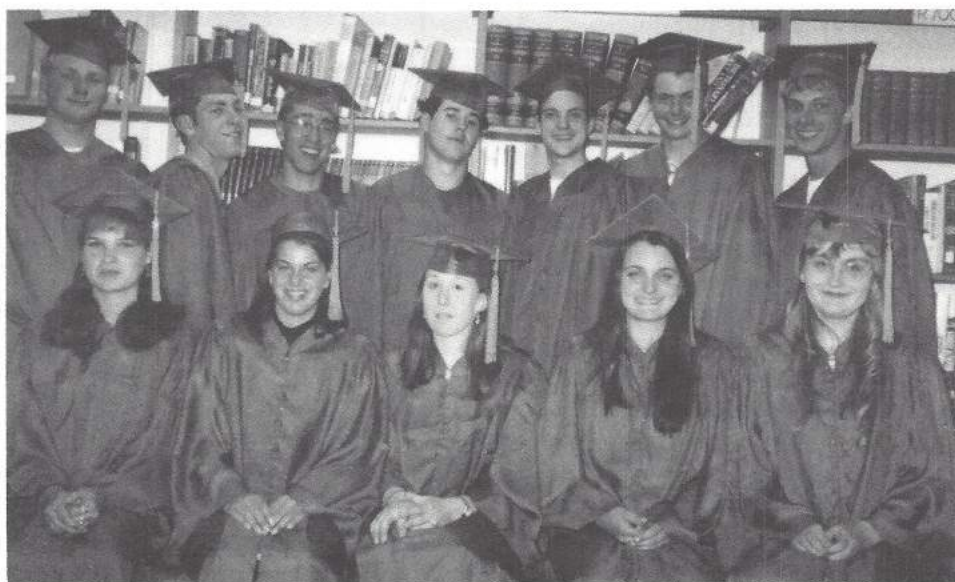
Magen MacDougall is going to the Word of Life Bible Institute in Tampa Bay, FL. Her future plans include work in environmental law.

Gabe Porter-Henry plans to finish Greenfield Community College next year. He intends to study anthropology or environmental studies.

Cory Rothwall will be attending a two year program at Greenfield Community College. His career plans include studying theatre acting and film, directing, screen writing, etc.

Janice Shattuck plans to attend Greenfield Community College and to become an elementary school teacher.

Ben Cerone. No information about Ben's plans is available at this time.



HEATH GRADUATES - MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
(Photo by Sue Silvester)



MILESTONES

by Edith Royer

Born March 13, a son Ernest James Junior to Dianne (Brown) and Ernest J. Royer Senior of Leyden, grandson of Lois Bergeron of South Deerfield and Helen and Ernest Royer of Shelburne Falls, great-grandson of Helen Weber of Shelburne Falls and Edith Royer of Heath.

Born April 10, a daughter Caitlyn McNeel to Catherine (Piemonte) and Douglas Wilkins of Heath, granddaughter of Jean B. Wilkins of Medway, John Wilkins of Hingham and Catherine and Joseph Piemonte of Salem.

Edward Harold Moody of Number Nine Road died April 15. He was born in Hartford, CT, June 8, 1942, the son of Harold and Dorothy Moody. He married Sandra Belval in 1963. She died in 1983. The Moodys moved to Heath in 1969. Survivors include a daughter Dorene Yandrasevich of Kinnelon, NJ, and a sister, Dot Chaffee of Dublin, OH. Graveside services were held in Riverview Cemetery, Wilmington, VT.

Ursula Niebuhr, the widow of theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, died January 10 at her home in Stockbridge, MA. She was born in Southampton, England, August 3, 1907. She leaves a daughter Elisabeth Sifton of New York City, a son Christopher of Stockbridge, MA, and three grandsons. The Niebuhr family spent many summers in Heath from 1932 until they moved to Stockbridge. Mr. Niebuhr died in 1971.

HEATH HERALD

HEATH'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

Managing Editor	Susan Silvester
General Ed. & Layout	Pegge Howland
Staff Reporters	Edith Royer
	Laurie Burrington
Columnists	Elsa Bakalar
	Michael Coe
	Bill Latrell
	Carroll Stowe
	Jesse Seaver
	Laurie Burrington
Advertising	Deborah Phillips
Circulation & Business	Deborah Phillips
Typeography	Alice Kinsman

The Heath Herald is published six times a year in April, June, August, October, December and February.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE - One year: \$5.50 (payable in advance by check or money order.)

ADVERTISING RATES - Display ads: \$4.80 per column inch (discounts on six or more insertions.)

CLASSIFIED ADS - \$2.00 per line.

Send all correspondence to: The Heath Herald, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346-0054.

HEATH CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANTS AWARDED

The Massachusetts Cultural Council has approved the following grants recommended by the Heath Cultural Council: \$200 to Frederick Burrington for an historical visual arts exhibit with the artwork of Robert Strong Woodward; \$1,600 to Robert Dane, for the Four Seasons glass wall at the Heath Elementary School; \$300 to the Heath Elementary School for a student field trip to the Wilder Homestead in Buckland; \$400 to the Heath Free Public Library for use in an historical documentation project featuring Heath; \$500 to the Heath School Community Partnership for a music and storytelling performance by Tincknell and Bates; \$200 to the Mary Lyon Fund, toward a series of cultural events featuring authors and illustrators, \$300 to Mohawk Trail Concerts, Inc., toward their summer series of chamber music concerts; \$100 to the Partnership for the Arts toward a community multi-disciplinary festival; and \$175 to Pothole Pictures toward a film series depicting historical data for students.

The Heath Arts Council meets several times a year, and community members' input is welcome. Watch for dates for the above.

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RAY'S OF INTEREST

by R. C. Pettengill

IT ISN'T FAIR

A male deer can catch the scent of a female deer from as far away as 100 yards if the wind is just right, but a female deer has to spend a lot of cents in order for a male deer to sense her presence, by her scent, even in the same room.

INSIGHT

Every man feels instinctively that all the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action. James Lowell (1819-1891)

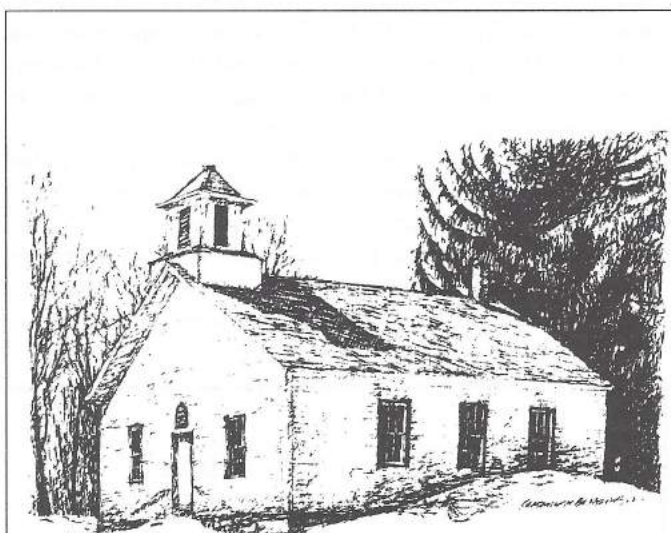
That's why it's a good idea to get the one you love a bunch of flowers once in a while!

200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

by Alice J. Kinsman

The Second Baptist Church of Colrain will hold a Hymn Sing on Sunday, July 7, 7 PM. This is the second in the 1997 summer series of "First Sunday" Hymn Sings in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Second Baptist Society on Christian Hill. First Sunday Hymn Sings are also scheduled August 3, September 7 and October 5 at 7 PM. Other events include Founders' Day Weekend, July 26-27, with an "old time" picnic on Saturday and worship services at 10 AM and 7 PM on Sunday. The anniversary celebration will continue through Thanksgiving Day, November 27 with a 10 AM service and on Christmas Eve at 8 PM.

Mr. Eric Sumner of Heath will lead the singing on July 7. Hymn Sings feature hymns by request and a time of refreshments and fellowship after the singing. Plan to attend, bring a guest and step back in time in this historic meeting house where lighting is provided by candles and kerosene lamps and accompaniment for singing is played on an old reed organ.



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LIBRARY LINES

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

Celebrate! Read! Summer months mean summer reading and writing! This summer, thanks to a mini-grant from the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, the Heath Public Library is able to offer an alternative to our children's and young adult summer reading programs, as well as our traditional reading program.

"We are the Stories we Write" is our theme. Words are powerful, as are the stories we tell. In celebration of books, our stories, and our unique talents, we will write, illustrate, and publish our own books, assisted by the talents of members of our community. The goal of this program is to help foster a love of the written word and reading, and to promote creativity. Information and registration forms for our programs will be sent out shortly.

One of the goals of the U. S. Department of Education's American 2000 Library Partnership is that "Every adult American will be literate...". Literacy begins with our young children and we thus encourage them, and their families and friends to read together. Literacy begins at home and continues at the library.

A grant from the Massachusetts Arts Lottery Council has allowed the library to begin to create an Historical Archives; in addition to the local history books already in the library an active documentation process will include conducting oral history interviews and recording them on audio cassette. A town is the result of the people, and their unique ways, who make it their home. To know their stories is to know our present.

Our library too has its story; we are celebrating 100 years this year. From its humble beginnings of 471 books located in a Heath citizen's home, to its present collection of over 15,000 books, periodicals, audio and video cassettes, and books on tape, plus over 500 items borrowed from the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System it is a collection in which books and subjects to suit many tastes can be found. Watch for news on our upcoming celebration!

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HEATH PRESCHOOL NEWS

by Suzanne Crawford

Each year it seems a bit of a surprise that the end of the school year comes so soon. But when I look at the children, there is no doubt that most of a year has gone by. They grow so much in a year's time at this age! Most are a couple inches taller than they were in September, and many have a new, more grown-up look and aura. They have grown in confidence and independence since those first days of timid, sometimes tearful, beginnings. As adults all we can do is admire with awe (and perhaps some envy) the phenomenal increase in their skills in so many areas. Some have learned to pedal a trike or do a somersault, while others have begun to make complex representational drawings. Some have mastered tying their own shoelaces, while others have begun to make elaborate block structures. Some are beginning to write letters and words, while others have increased their vocabulary and language skills. All have learned a lot about being a good friend and taking turns and being part of a group. It is a real pleasure and an honor to have been a part of their lives.

We have enjoyed some special activities during the past several weeks. We have become "reading buddies" with the kindergartners in Deb Porter's class, visiting first in our class, then in theirs. It is a special treat to see how beautifully these young friends read. We will also join them for lunch at school soon. Cindy Clark took us for a treasured ride on her school bus. In addition to being great fun, all of these activities help children to prepare for some of the new experiences of kindergarten. Another great treat was having Judy Singley bring her giant Earth ball. What a feeling of accomplishment it



PRESCHOOLERS ENJOY "MAGIC MUD"
(Photo by Suzanne Crawford)

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gives the preschoolers to help roll or pick up or lay on top of this giant 6' ball!! Another fun activity was having "magic mud" in the water table. (See the accompanying photos.) This wonderful "kitchen science" concoction, which sometimes goes by other names like "oobleck" or "goop," is easier to make (and to clean up) than to understand. Mix 5 tablespoons cornstarch and 3 tablespoons water together in a cup, adding a drop of food coloring if you like. Then have fun seeing how it is magically sometimes solid and sometimes liquid. This is really fun stuff for anyone from 3 to 93. The scientific explanation of it being a colloidal suspension never diminishes the magic for me.

The preschool continues to be funded by a combination of money from a state Community Partnerships for Children grant, tuition from families, the town's contribution voted at Town Meeting, and fund raising. I greatly appreciate the town's continuing support of the preschool. The grant application is in progress, and we should hear back by the end of the summer. AJ Cycle of Gill once again sponsored a motorcycle ride and luncheon to benefit the preschool. Many, many thanks to David Adie, Jaimye Ingraham and the others at AJ Cycle for their very generous support. We plan to continue our fund raising efforts at the Heath Fair and hope to see you all there. We also expect to receive notification about our re-accreditation through the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs over the summer.

Pre-registration for the 1997-98 school year has begun. All young children who are either 3 or 4 years old by August 31, 1997 are eligible to attend. I have contacted all families that I know about with eligible children, but please feel free to let me know of any children I may have missed. You can reach me over the summer at 339-4265.



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SALAMANDER ALERT!

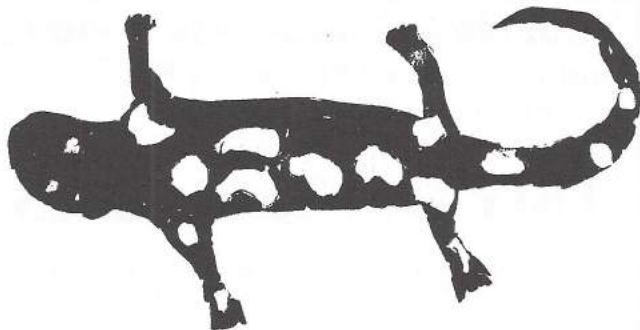
by Ruth Ayers, Pauline Cerone and Bethany Sterling

Middle South was looking for evidence of Spring. Primary North was studying salamanders. So, we teamed up and decided to go on a Salamander Walk. Primary North is a class of first graders and kindergartners. Middle South is a class of third and second graders. The teachers' names are Deb Porter and Robbie Murphy. We had to wait for the right night to see the salamanders migrate from their homes in the woods to a pond so they could lay their eggs. We needed a night when the snow had melted, and it was raining.

First we read books about salamanders. Then we played the game "Deer Ears." We wanted to do that because we had to be quiet so the salamanders would not go away. To be quiet we had to do the "predator walk" which is when you step on the tip of your toe and then your heel.

On Monday night, April 28, we met at the Heath School at 8 PM. Our teachers, some parents and about 20 students went on the Salamander Walk. We picked that night because it was rainy and wet. We brought flashlights. We got in cars and drove to Long Hill Road. We split into two groups on either side of the beaver pond. Some cars parked at the Smead's house and some at the end of Long Hill Road. One group made a signal for saying "I found a salamander." The signal was "Ooooo, Ooooo...". We could really hear the signal because it was quiet. We walked for about five minutes before we saw the first salamander. It was exciting. The other group saw a beaver in the pond. We saw a peeper next to a salamander. The two groups met at the beaver pond. We saw around 35 salamanders that night! Bethany saw 38! The salamanders were black with yellow spots. Some were about 16 inches long.

About a week later, Jacob Smead saw the salamanders come back from the pond heading to their homes. We had a lot of fun. We hope we can see them again next year.



SAL THE SALAMANDER
(Drawing by Middle South and Primary North)



The Way It Is In The Country

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

by CARROLL STOWE

A GREAT HUMAN INTEREST STORY

I recently had a most gratifying experience. I had been engaged to plow a garden in South Heath. My two bottom trailer plow had been left at a job on Colrain Stage Road. I was unable to get the plow earlier because of wet field conditions. When the field dried out enough I went early one morning to collect the plow. I was invited to have tea with the land owners. I was able to cross the field to where the plow had rested all winter without trouble. The tires needed a shot of air and with that task completed I made it back to the road and the cup of tea and good conversation. All that had taken place that morning was rather predictable. After the cup of tea the unpredictable took place.

With the plow in tow behind the H Farmall I started across the road through Mohawk Estates. I had gone a very short distance when I could not detect road noise of the plow and discovered in fact it had detached itself from the tractor. The plow had rolled off to the wrong side of the road. I hadn't been traveling very fast as the road was a bit rough. As I turned the old iron around and started back to get reconnected to the plow I met a young woman out for a walk and we talked about her wish to obtain some sort of tractor. This visit over we went our separate way. As I turned the power unit around closer to the plow, I noticed a vehicle needing to get through where I was taking up the full width of the highway. I motioned for them to come by and got out of their path. A fellow was driving and he had a woman passenger. This plow is equipped with an L shaped lever with which to lift the plow hitch and open the jaw of the coupler to position it in the twisted clevis on the tractor draw bar. This connector is a spring loaded unit that allows the plow to come unhitched when an obstruction is hit. It saves a great amount of broken plow parts. When the plow is in the soil it's a simple task to back to the hitch, lift the framework into place, latch things back together and go on. With the plow in transport position it needs some pressure to bear the plow down to connect the hitch. This never before seen fellow stopped his vehicle, got out, came back, mounted the plow in the proper position and bore the jaw down into place as I backed the tractor. Not a word was spoken until the plow was connected and he said to me, "Who said two heads aren't better than one" and went on his way.

No one ever told me that I had paid my dues on a tractor seat but I feel that I have and I could never have thought up this situation. It caused me a good laugh most of the day. This fellow had no doubt been in that situation before.

MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT, JUNE 5, 1997

The following Mohawk Trail Regional School Heath seniors received awards on Senior Awards Night, as follows:

Pratt Prizes: Mr. Dzialo presented two prizes of \$325 each established by the late Francis Pratt for the boy and girl who, in the opinion of the faculty, have made the most of their opportunities while in school. These were presented to Carmen Tedesco and Colin Gruen.

The **Art Bank Award** was presented by Dee Boyle-Clapp to Keith Cerone.

The **Willim H. "Bill" Patch Award** was presented by Glenn Ridler to Keith Cerone.

The **Excellence in Mathematics Award** was presented by Susan Mason to Ben Cerone.

The **Automotive Excellence Award** was presented by Susan Mason to Jason Clark, Colin Gruen and Justin Lively.

The **Mohawk Music Merit Award** was presented by Scott Bryant to Andrea Lucid, Ben Cerone, Colin Gruen and Janice Shattuck.

The **National Choral Award** was presented by Scott Bryant to Kathy Kendrick.

The **Resource Center Award** was presented by Susan Silvester to Carrie Croteau.

The **Peer Support Award** was presented by Susan Mason to Carrie Croteau.

The **Peer Mediation Award** was presented by Susan Mason to Justin Lively.

The **National Honor Society's Unsung Hero Scholarship Award** was presented to Colin Gruen.

The **Student Council's Certificate of Appreciation** was presented by Miss Magill and Mrs. Fitzpatrick to Colin Gruen.

The **Athletic Award** was presented by Mr. Chula to Gabe Porter-Henry.

The **Class Officers' Award** was presented by Ms. Adler and Mr. Wheeler to Colin Gruen.

The **Class Participation Award** was presented by Ms. Adler and Mr. Wheeler to Janice Shattuck, Magen Mac-Dougal, Kathy Kendrick and Justin Lively.

MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL SECOND QUARTER HONOR ROLL

The following Mohawk Trail Regional School Heath students were named to the school's third quarter honor roll.

Seniors: Honors, Keith Cerone, Carrie Croteau, Colin Gruen, Justin Lively, Andrea Lucid

Juniors: Honors, Melissa Gilbert, Lauren Kuehl
Sophomores: High Honors, Jesse Porter-Henry; Honors, Shye-Ann Pettengill, Kathleen Tuturice

Freshmen: Honors, Lara Thane

Eighth Grade: Honors, Katie Lucid, Jillian Lively, Aaron Wodin-Schwartz

Seventh Grade: Honors, Mary Rose Shattuck, Steven Smead, Sherri Lively

PERCS, PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

Percolation Tests

Ray Pettengill reports that there were seven (7) perc tests conducted in April and May, three repairs and four new. Four of the seven passed.

Building Permits

No building permits were issued this period.

Deed Transfers

Lands Edge Inc., of Williamstown to Charles W. and Ruth S. Forbes of Northampton, Number Nine Road. \$19,900.

Robert D. and Carole J. Barclay to Calvin Tatro of Ludlow, Mohawk Estates Lot 7. \$3,500.

David F. and Margaret E. C. Howland to Enrico and Giulia Mezzacappa of Needham, 8 Taylor Brook Road. \$67,000.

Kenneth and Eileen Hansen to Eileen Hansen, Colrain Brook Road, lots 2, 3, 23 and 24. \$1.

Simone E. Parent to Christine E. and Donald W. Hadley, Jr., of Chicopee, Mohawk Estates. \$1.

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DAVID AND ROSIE McKINNON AN ELECTRONIC COTTAGE IN HEATH

by Pat Leuchtman

Lots of people have seen the New England Security van parked in the driveway of the Old Parsonage, but the evidence of construction and many pots of plants collected on the lawn have been a hint that a lot more is going on than the installation of a "burglar alarm". In fact, New England Security is the name of David McKinnon's business, and the van is even more likely to be seen around the county than out in front of the house.

When David and Rosie bought the Old Parsonage they thought they would have time to make their renovations before they moved. Then the farmhouse they were renting in Shelburne Center was sold and they moved into the Old Parsonage at the end of January. These past few months have been really busy as they insulated the house, drilled a well, installed new kitchen cabinets, a floating kitchen floor ---and the technology that makes their house a smart house.

When Rosie gets up at 5 in the morning, the heat and lights are on, no stumbling around in the mid-winter dark and cold; the coffee is brewed and she can have a comfortable breakfast before setting off for Brattleboro where she puts in four long days at the military division of C & S wholesale foods.

That is just the beginning of what the McKinnon smart house can do. David explains that security is the bread and butter of his eight year old business. People worry about break-ins, and about 60 percent of the business is for fire, but there is more and more interest in the futuristic technology of smart houses. According to David a smart house, controlled by a computer program, can make a house fuel efficient and enable it to run as economically as possible.

As an example he describes the system which controls his boiler. When outside temperatures are under 30 degrees, the boiler runs at 180, but when temperatures are higher it runs at 150 degrees, saving fuel.

"A good security system needs to know when residents are in, or out, or in bed. When the house is armed, and in an away mode, the furnace can be set at a low temperature. If you are not home when it's dusk, interior and exterior lights will go on. If you are still not home at a set time, say 11, the exterior lights will go off, and interior lights will go on and off in a pattern, and finally off," David said.

David has little confidence in low cost security systems which are inadequate because they usually only arm two doors, or two openings and have only one interior motion detector. They have no floor mats to detect pressure and other interior protection. At David and Rosie's house a burglar could never get very far. He'd have to get past their alarms, Zach and Sadie the dogs, and the floor mat at the bottom of their stairs.

David's hi-tech business is run out of the home office, where an elaborate computer system sits on a battered

old wooden desk, next to a veritable jungle of healthy houseplants. All the other paraphernalia of the electronic cottage, phones and faxes sit on cabinets that were taken out of the kitchen.

Rosie's father, a retired carpenter, is responsible for the new floating kitchen floor that may be the only level and plumb floor in an old house in Heath. It will even stay level and plumb when further work is done on the foundation. The previous owners had put in a new pine floor, but apparently had not noticed that they were laying it over a totally rotted floor. Those pine boards are now installed in the beautiful butternut and tiger maple cabinets that Rosie's father built.

It is not surprising that 15 year old Chris, a student at Mohawk, is a computer expert, although Katelynn who lives with her mother in Greenfield during the week and comes to Heath on the weekends says she just likes games.

Chris has a busy schedule at Mohawk which has included his helping Doug Wilkins set up the Mohawk network. So far he hasn't been too interested in programming, except for HTML which he uses to design home pages. He has started his own business; Dillon Chevrolet in Greenfield and the Shelburne Falls Business Association are two of his main customers. He spends several hours a month keeping the sites updated. He is familiar with many software programs, and currently is helping Jim Coursey work with a powerful new computer.

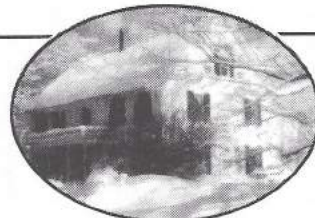
Rosie said she knew she was a part of a very close and friendly community, when Mr. Churchill, who she hadn't met stopped her during her walk one day and commented that the day before she hadn't gone as far as usual. She laughed and said that is exactly the kind of community she and David were looking for.

They loved the giant old farmhouse they were renting, and being able to ramble over 185 acres, but there was noise from Route 2. "We wanted a quiet place, where I could walk the dogs and have friendly neighbors," she said

David grew up in Shelburne so he is very familiar with the whole area. They looked at houses all over the west county, but they had heard what a wonderful town Heath was. And the Old Parsonage was just what they had been looking for, an old house in need of some TLC.

Now they have it all, quiet, friendly neighbors and an old house to lavish attention on. The McKinnon family was smart enough to design a smart house, and smart enough to find their way to Heath where they can be our good neighbors.

*Maple
House*



The house on the hill with the view of yesteryear

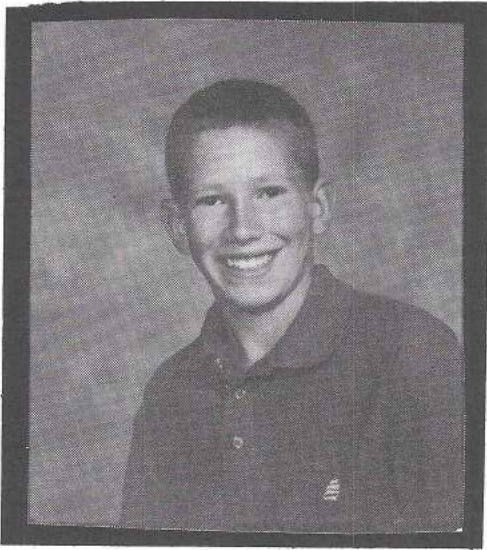
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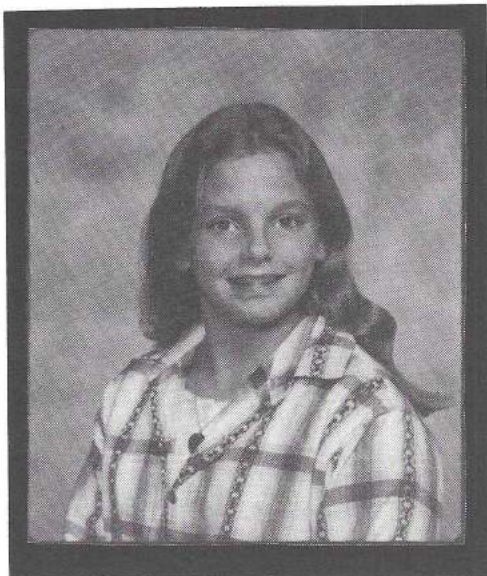
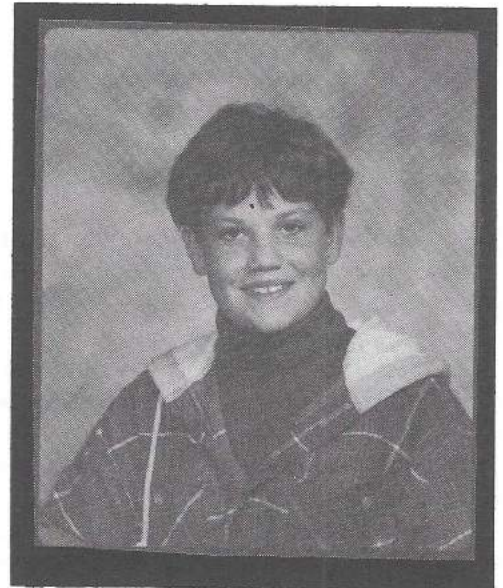
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The Graduating Class of 1997

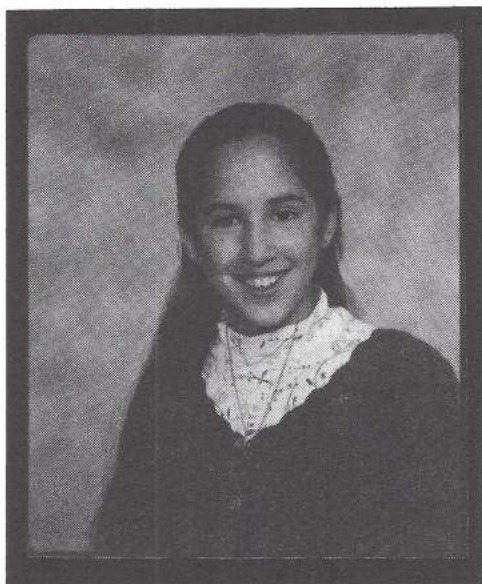


Name: Walker Blue
Nickname: Sparkey
Saying: Little Critter
Hobbies: Sports
Thank You: Mom & Dad

Name: Dominic Cerone
Nickname: Dom
Saying: Can't live with 'em can't live without 'em.
Hobbies: Basketball
Thank You: I thank my family.



Name: Heather Ginman
Nickname: Giggles
Saying: Don't worry be happy.
Hobbies: Basketball, ice hockey, street hockey, & skiing
Thank You: Mom, Dad, and my best friend Amelia!



Name: Mary Lemelin

Nickname: Lemlin

Saying: Live a good life.

Hobbies: Having fun, basketball, field hockey

Thank You: I thank my family and Carly.

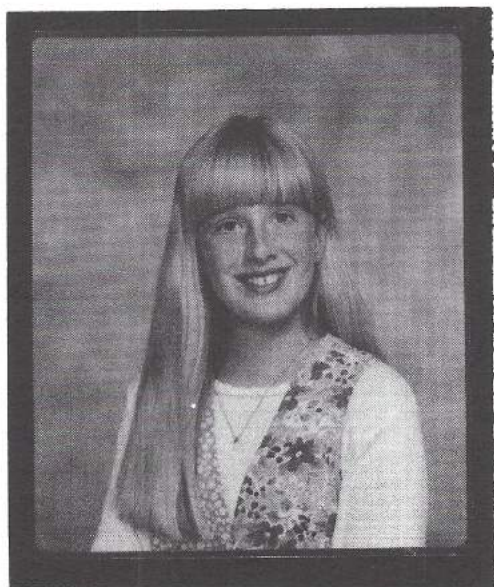
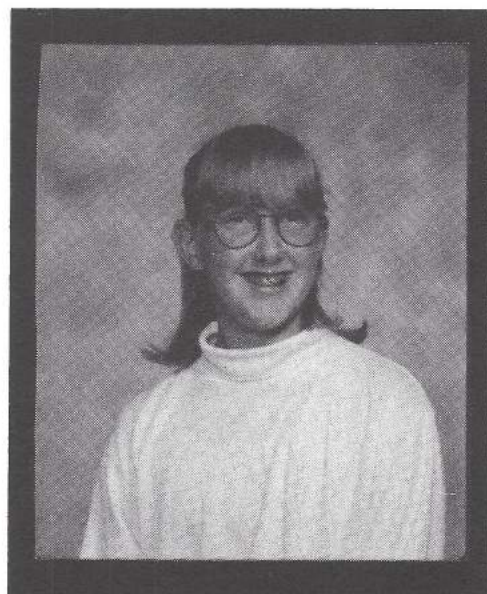
Name: Carly Nartowicz

Nickname: Helga the Great

Saying: Keep on smiling.

Hobbies: Listening to music & skiing.

Thank You: Mom, Dad, Brad & Mary



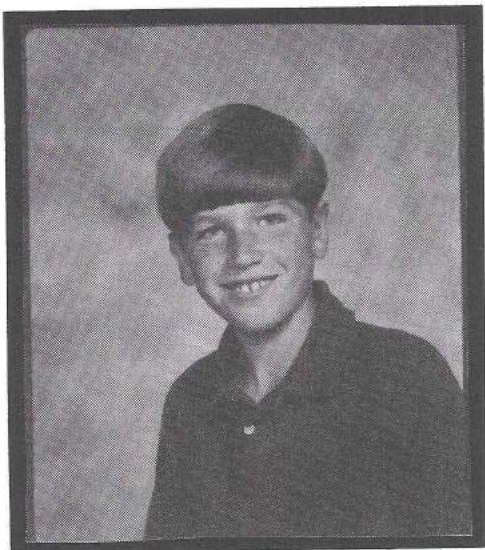
Name: Amelia Rocchi

Nickname: Amolly

Saying: I may not be perfect but I'm always me!

Hobbies: Softball, basketball, piano

Thank You: To my family and to my best friend
Heather G. and to my other good friends!



Name: Luke Inman

Nickname: "G"

Saying: Nobody's perfect

Hobbies: Sports, fishing, skiing, music, hunting

Thank You: I thank my friends & family.

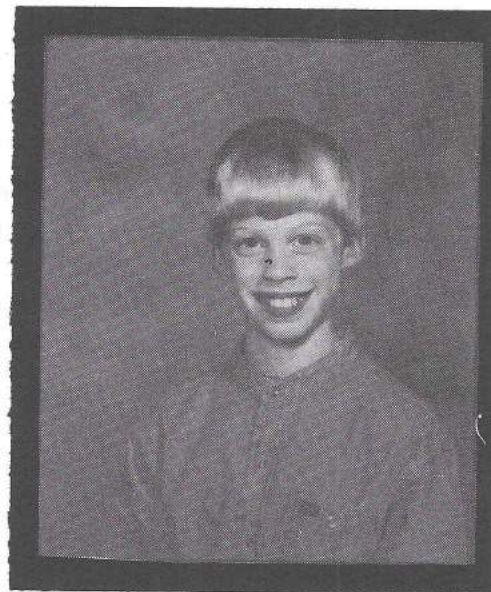
Name: Dylan Johnson

Nickname: Pickleman

Saying: "Rodman Rules"

Hobbies: STP, ski racing, Dennis Rodman collages

Thank you: Mom, Dad, Lyra, Lammy, Jamiee and Halley

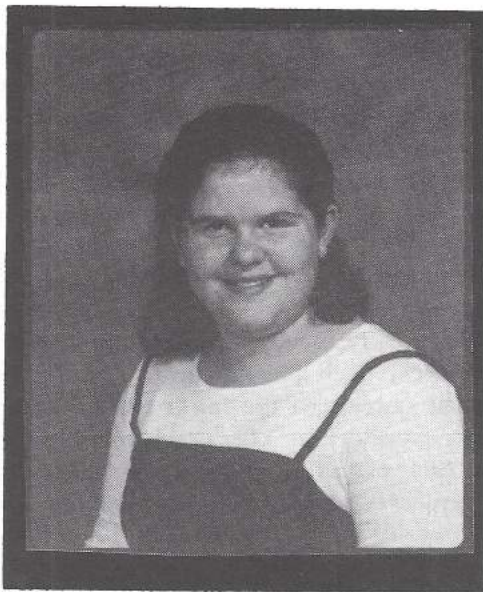


Name: Sarah LaPointe

Saying: Make the most of your life.

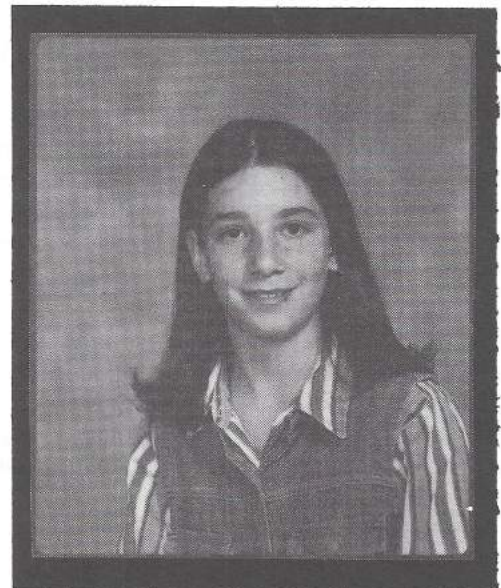
Hobbies: Soccer & listening to music

Thank You: Mom, dad, brother & sisters



Name: Heather Sessions
Nickname: H.A.S.
Hobbies: Horse back riding
Thank You: I thank my mom and dad.

Name: Sara Jane Wodin-Schwartz
Nickname: KKB
Saying: Living is great, make the most of it.
Hobbies: Going on roller coasters and biking.
Thank You: I thank my old teacher Bob.



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HEATH FAIR NEWS

by Robert Gear

The Heath Agricultural Society has received a grant from the State's Fair Department to assist in financing our project to install new roofs and otherwise retrofit the familiar green barns used to house the sheep and cattle exhibits.

This is an important step toward repairing the older buildings. Work Bees will be held every Saturday during June and probably in July as well starting at nine in the morning. We hope to finish at least one of the barns, preferably both of them. We are almost totally dependent on volunteer labor to complete these and other projects and how much we get done depends a lot on how many people show up to help.

Anyone and everyone who would like to give us a hand is welcome. Please call me, Robert Gear, at 337-4844 or Ed Croteau, Vice President and our head carpenter at 337-5317 and let us know what you want to do and when you can come.

Sunday, June 29 is the annual Horse Draw which is held each year in June and is in effect the practice run for the Fair as all systems must be up and running and in shape. Volunteers are needed to take tickets, help serve food and assist with our chores throughout the day. This is always a lot of fun and we always have a good time at this event.

This year as part of our attempt to get children involved with and aware of the Fair we are giving packets of summer squash seeds of several varieties to each student at the Heath Elementary School. Students are encouraged to grow the squash and exhibit their best efforts in the Exhibit Hall at the Fair.

Betty Nichols has retired from her job as Horse Show Manager. I am taking on this responsibility, ably assisted by Diane Stowe who is dealing with the fund raising and

other business aspects of the show. Everything is looking good for this year's show. We need seven or eight responsible volunteers to work at gates at each of the arenas in two hour shifts. These spots are very important in regard to keeping the show running smoothly. Please call me if you would like to be one of these people.

In the last issue of the Heath Herald, I mentioned several people who have been invaluable to the Fair over the past several years and of course I left out a few. Bob DeLisle, our resident electrician, has saved the Fair nearly every year and has gradually upgraded all the electrical systems on the fairgrounds. Tom Lively has been responsible for efficiently running the livestock show. This year Ernie Thane has been a real help to me with carpentry projects and Gary and Sue Josefiak have done a terrific job reorganizing and improving our food service department. Thanks to all of you from myself and the Agricultural Society.

Arrangements have been made to plant a red maple tree and install a park bench with an appropriate plaque as a memorial to Mike Peters on the fairgrounds. There may be a dedication ceremony after it is in place. If this happens, there will be notices in either the Heath Herald or the West County News so that everyone knows about it in time to attend.

The next Fair meeting will be on June 19 at 7 PM in the cafeteria of the Elementary School. We welcome your attendance and input. This is a good way to become involved.

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OF HERBS AND HEIRLOOMS

by Laurie Wheeler Burrington

Long awaited Spring has brought with it...showers, flowers...and bugs. A particularly voracious crop of flying, biting creatures, whether they be black flies, "no-see-ums", or mosquitoes, Hitchcock's birds have nothing on these yearly summer residents.

Gardeners being creative souls, now is the time for creative solutions; and after a winter in Heath, staying inside hardly counts as an option.

Everyone has their own method of bug control, whether it be a commercial preparation, smoking, citronella candles, or full dress "bug gear", which is a little scary; one friend wears incense in his hat. I try not to break down and go commercial, and experiment with various herbal methods.

When I enter my garden I am entering a space where I am able to attune with the earth, and that does not include the bugs. A combination of an herb in oil rubbed on the skin, health garlic consumption, and smoke are pretty effective. Rather than directly inhale smoke I use a "smudge stick", which is a dried bundle of herbs I light and allow to smolder. The burning of fragrant herbal materials to transport oneself is ages old; whether with a smudge stick as used by a Native American, or with incense and censer in a church, it is also an act of reverence. "Smudging" when I begin work in my garden serves as a reminder that my garden is a sacred space, and that I need to lay aside the profane upon entering it.

To make a smudge stick I use Artemisia Silver King; other herbs which work well in combination are cedar, lavender, or rosemary. I gather my herbs in 6" to 10" lengths and tie them together all along the length with thread, and dry them for one to several months. They may be from 2" to 4" in diameter when drying is complete. When burning your smudge stick, remember, don't leave it unattended, and when finished dip it in water to douse it thoroughly. If the weather is dry or windy, or if there are children about, you may wish to deter the bugs another way.

Different herbs, such as pennyroyal, citronella geranium, when applied to the skin, deter bugs. A few drops of essential oils, such as eucalyptus, peppermint, rosemary, scented geranium, or cloves may be mixed in a tablespoon of vegetable or olive oil and rubbed onto exposed skin. Herbs such as feverfew or peppermint may also be boiled in water and the resulting liquid put on the skin. The peppermint will also cool you off! Any time you create a herbal concoction for your skin first test it on a small patch of your skin to be certain you are not allergic to it.

Experiment, have fun, and don't let the bugs bug you.



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HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

by Jack Cable, Superintendent

CHILDREN ON BICYCLES. I counted twenty bikes at the school one day - so many children are riding to school on their bikes - motorists please drive with care - 8A is dangerous near the school - preserve our future - watch out for the children. We installed Bike Signs along Route 8A, Number Nine Road and Branch Hill Road.

The snow storm of March 31 - April 2 was the toughest one of the season - because of it's wetness and depth (2 feet) which made plowing difficult especially on dirt roads which were muddy, a state of emergency was called and emergency personnel were stationed at the Fire House. We had chain saws in all the trucks to cut our way plowing. Trees and live wires down in areas caused us to close some roads. After having near misses with those trees and live wires, we stopped plowing the secondary roads at 10:30 PM. Primary roads were kept open. We resumed plowing secondary roads at 6 AM with the loader and truck; it was very slow going.

The new school bus contract is awarded and includes automatic chains on all buses - something that I insisted be on buses traveling to Heath. I only hope that the new director of transportation will listen when I say "Don't have school today".

The dirt roads are being graded later this year because of work which had to be done on the school road. We have a very limited schedule in which to finish this road or lose funding! By the time you read this, parts of Burrington Hill and Branch Hill will be paved. The rest of Branch Hill will be torn up and resurfaced before winter; also Colrain Stage will be done.

Pay your fee for transfer station; we are still waiting to clear our recycling of plastic. Watch for the announcement.

Again watch out for children on the roads - they have a right to use the road, too. We all need to observe the rules of the road.



TOWN FARM ROAD, APRIL 1, 1997
(Photo by Ruth Johnson)

HEATH BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Members of the Heath Enterprise Council

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Building/Remodeling
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FREDERICK BURRINGTON
Artist, Commissions
337-4426

NANCY BURRINGTON
Evergreen Information
337-4425

PAUL F. BURRINGTON
Building Contractor
337-4425

CABLE'S BURNT HILL BLUE-BERRIES
337-4454

MARY AND HARVEY CARTER
Aged sheep's milk cheese
337-5511

JAMES CERONE
Builder, 337-4210

JAMES COURSEY
Interior Designer
337-0212

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RUSS DONELSON
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ALVIN HILLMAN
Automotive Repair
337-5576

DAVID HOWLAND
Consultant, 337-4980

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Indigo Glassworks
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JOHN MOONEY
Custom remodeling
337-8344

WANDA MOONEY
Realtor, 337-8344

ALAN NICHOLS
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337-6665

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339-4293

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Driveways
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Electrician, 337-4845

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If you would like more information about how to become a member of the Heath Enterprise Council, please call Alicia Tripp at 337-4964

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

by Eileen Tougas

We had a pretty impressive turn-out for both the elections and the annual town meeting. Out of Heath's 445 registered voters, 199 came to the polls to cast their vote and 90 came to the Annual Town Meeting. We are encouraged by the increase in participation because every voice is important to the future of our town. We should all participate in town business. To encourage this, we are holding open forums from 7:00 to 7:30 each Tuesday night. Everyone is invited to attend and to raise or speak to any issue they wish to bring to the attention of the selectmen.

I would like to highlight a few of the 24 articles presented at the May 10th, 1997 Town Meeting. The town voted to transfer \$3,410 from the interest on temporary loans to the School Project Account, \$17,000 from the Winter Work Wages Account to the Town Highway Account, \$7,000 from the Town Highway-Hired Equipment Account and \$6,987 from the Town Highway-Materials Account to the Town Highway-Snow Removal Account (all FY 97).

Voters rejected an article that would require the unanimous approval of each of the member towns if the school budget assessments had a greater than 2 1/2 percent increase. Heath voters agreed to take part in a state reimbursement program that will provide \$40,000 toward Heath School playground equipment and computer technology. This was done by agreeing to allocate \$2,300 in gifts raised by the Mary Lyon Education Fund, \$5,520 in DARE grant money and \$3,618 from the general fund (\$2,500 will be offset by an electric company rebate) to be contributed as the town's match.

The amount of \$6,240 was approved for the purpose of hiring a Town nurse. This one year pilot program will provide a registered nurse to town residents for six hours a week. The nurse will offer home assessments, visit the chronically ill, call on families with new babies and work closely with the Heath School nurse.

Voters approved a special account for Beaver Control in the amount of \$2,000 to pay for damage, such as blocked drains and culverts, caused by beavers. New Protective Zoning ByLaws that will prevent future sludge dumping in Heath were adopted and voters also approved the "Proposed Rules for the Cemeteries of the Town." \$10,000 was approved to be transferred from Free Cash to Stabilization for a fire truck and also \$15,000 to purchase a brush chipper.

In both the non-binding referendum held on election day and at Town Meeting, the citizens voted to place the Shapiro land in its entirety "in conservation". This will be done as soon as the BOS determines appropriate exclusions (rights reserved for the town) and takes action declaring the Shapiro land excess to other municipal purposes.

When you purchase your transfer station permit you will find that the fee has been increased from \$25 to \$35.

This is the first increase requested in about nine years of operation at the present location. You could say it's still the best buy in town! As you may have already noticed, we now have a metal roll-off container at the transfer station. This metals bin, supplied by Albany Street Metals, will be available through the end of the summer and at that time the BOS will consider having it available year round.

Fire Chief Mike Smith is looking for volunteers, not as fire fighters but as fire department support. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in assisting the fire department organize fund raising events, take photographs at the scene of a fire or participate in the annual chicken barbecue at the fair, please let us know.

The BOS regretfully accepted a resignation from Ruth Johnson who served on the Conservation Commission. Thank you for your service to the town, Ruth.

ASSESSORS' REPORT

by Don Decker

The Assessors have received word from the State about the new abatement procedure. Beginning in FY 98, Fall 97, abatement applications on Real or Personal Property taxes must be filed with the Assessors on or before the last day for payment of the first installment of the actual tax bill issued for the fiscal year. The actual date abatement applications are due must now also be printed on the tax bill.

So when you get your tax bill in the Fall, you need to check what is on there carefully. Since we now put all structures on the bill itself, look to see if what is listed is exactly what you have. The Assessors look at properties in Town every year and try to keep everything accurate, but a mistake is possible. If you see a mistake or believe the assessment is in error, you need then to ask for the abatement.

Currently we meet the first and third Thursday of each month from 4 to 6 PM. However, you do not need to come in person to ask for an abatement. There are always forms hanging in a manilla envelope on the Assessors' door. Just fill out the appropriate form and we will consider your request. If you cannot get to the Town Hall, we will take a letter with your request, as long as it gets here on time.

Our goal is to be as fair and accurate as we can possibly be. With taxes as high as they are, mistakes should be corrected as soon as possible, so be sure to check and verify your tax bills when you first get them. If you have questions, call at the meeting times, or drop a note and we will answer as soon as possible.

Richard A. Sumner

Journeyman Electrician

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TOWN ELECTION RESULTS

by June Day

The Town Election took place on Friday, May 9, 1997, in the Community Hall. There was an excellent turn-out of 199 voters.

Hilma Sumner was reelected to the Board of Selectmen with 113 votes. Write-in candidate Richards Steinbock received 77. Town Clerk June Day, Assessor Donald Dekker, Library Trustee Maureen O'Malley and School Committee Member Frank Brower were on the ballot for reelection and were handily returned to office.

The Finance Committee had no nominated candidates. Write-in candidates Jim Cerone and Brian Vilbon were voted to the two open three-year terms. David Cote was elected to fill the open two-year term. The town elected candidate Robert Viarengo as a Planning Board member in the four-year term he has been filling via appointment. Write-in candidate Donald Schnelle was elected to the open five year term. Candidate Joseph Corbeil was elected to the remaining one-year term on the School Committee he has been filling via appointment. Both town constables, Charles Kaempfer and Robert Markert were reelected via write-in. Michelle Howe was reelected as Dog Officer via write-in, but has submitted her resignation leaving that position to be filled by the Selectmen.

The following morning the Town Meeting opened with the reading of the election results by the Town Clerk. The Moderator prepared to go on to the offices customarily filled at the Town Meeting for the important posts of Fence Viewers, Field Drivers, and Measurers of Wood and Bark. There was a surprise announcement signaling rebellion among the Field Drivers as Moderator Doug Wilkins read the following letter:

"Mr. Moderator, Friends and Neighbors: It was many years ago at an Annual Town Meeting that the Town of Heath bestowed upon Robert Gruen and Budge Litchfield one of the highest honors imaginable. It was with a sense of awe and deep gratitude that we humbly accepted the distinguished position of Field Driver. During the ensuing years we have done our best to live up to your high expectations. We have trained, made contingency plans, and at times have fulfilled our responsibilities in a manner that would have made Billy Crystal and the cast of City Slickers green with envy. It is therefore with the deepest regret that we tender our resignations from the distinguished position of Field Driver. Aside from the fact that in recent years our feet have become slightly less swift and our wind a bit shorter we feel it is time to share the spotlight and allow other Heathens to feel the pride that goes along with this vitally important job. In all humility we must also admit that the generous compensation this august position has thrust upon us has led to a painful level of tax bracket creep. Thank you for these many years of trust and support and best of luck to our proud successors.

Signed: Budge Litchfield & Robert Gruen"

Moderator Doug Wilkins called for nominations. Sue Gruen, Sheila Litchfield, and Michelle Howe were voted in by standing ovation. The Assessors were willing to continue as Fence Viewers (as it fits in nicely with their property viewing). Alan Nichols, Roger Clark and Tom Lively will continue as Measurers of Wood and Bark. Paul Lively remains Sexton and Burial Agent; Jack Cable Tree Warden.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

by D. F. Howland

Another Annual Town Meeting was concluded on Saturday, May 10, 1997. It started at 9 AM and ended a little after 2 PM, five hours of serious debate with some laughs thrown in. A few people went to the bathroom, but most endured the lengthy proceedings.

The total appropriated for FY 98 is \$1,298,006 according to Town Accountant June Day. There are additional costs for the new regional government, reserves for abatements and a library account. Then there are offsets of \$115,000 from Free Cash, estimated income from the State of \$85,000 and \$100,000 to \$105,000 from the Town in the form of excise taxes, fees and interest. When all the numbers are considered the tax levy could be in the vicinity of \$23.50 per \$1,000 valuation.

For FY 97 the tax rate was \$18.82, but it would have been \$22.26 if it were not for \$150,000 the Town received from the State in the form of Foundation Reserve Aid, better known as "pothole" money. The BOS has applied for this Aid again for FY 98; it is vitally necessary to bring our tax rate down. If our rate had been \$22.26 it would have been the highest in the state.

Three new people were elected to the Finance Committee (FinCom): Jim Cerone, David Cote and Brian Vilbon. All three are self-employed building contractors and bring some good business experience to the Committee. Mike Smead, who is in the road construction business with Warner Brothers, and Dave Howland, former selectman, round out the group. At an organizational meeting on June 3rd, Dave was elected Chair and Jim was named Secretary for the coming year. Mike Smead continues to be the liaison to the Highway Department. Further assignments are expected to be made at the next meeting on Wednesday, July 2nd.

Other business conducted on June 3rd was the distribution of information about FinCom operations. The FinCom supported a proposal by Bob Viarengo of the Planning Board to submit a "preliminary letter of interest" to the Department of Housing and Community Development for money to do planning, the specifics of which are yet to be determined. It also dealt with a procedural matter with regard to the recent purchase of a used truck for the Highway Department to help with the plowing this coming winter. While appropriate bids were obtained and there was money in different highway accounts to cover it, it has generally been the practice to go to Town Meeting to redirect the spending from such accounts. This policy is not in writing and there is no statute applicable to this particular situation. However, for future actions, the BOS asked the FinCom to draft a policy and procedures document that will establish guidelines for matters involving the transfer of funds and Town Meeting action as they pertain to the purchase of capital equipment.

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HEATH UNION CHURCH NEWS

by Pastor Colin Lucid

"Casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7.

This verse of Scripture can be a great help to us when our busy schedules and other things that crop up overwhelm us. This verse asks us to take those things and give them to God's caring hand, because God indeed cares about our lives very much and asks us to include Him in the details of our everyday living.

We have truly enjoyed "Kids Club" and would like to thank principal Phil O'Reilly for allowing us to use the Heath School. We are tentatively planning a Vacation Bible School (VBS) for the week of July 14-18, 9:30 AM to 12 PM at Heath Church. All kids from 4 years through 6th grade are invited to join us. The theme is "Meadow Mysteries".

The Heath Church Sunday Morning Schedule is as follows:

Sunday School: 9 AM. We will continue throughout the summer.

Morning Worship: 10 AM. We are currently learning from the book of Romans.

Youth Group: 7 PM at the parsonage. We will continue throughout the summer.

All are invited to join our church family during these times.

Pastor Colin's office is at the parsonage. Please call 337-5755 or just come by if you should need to speak with him for any reason.



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Dave Howland of 23 Avery Brook Road recently became fully certified as an Associate Instructor with the United States Professional Tennis Registry. Certification requires passing tests involving Skills, Drills, Teaching, Corrective Actions and a Written Examination. There are nearly 10,000 members all over the World in the USPTR which was founded in 1976. Dave has a court and is available to give lessons. It can be fun and help one to get fit if they are not already! Call 337-4980 if you are interested in details.

Kevin R. Duda, son of Ronald and Karen (Stetson) Duda of Whately has been accepted at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona, FL. He is a student at Frontier Regional School and received a Certificate of Academic Excellence sent out by the Tandy Corporation to bright academicians across the nation. He was student of the week in the Union News April 22 and he is on the school baseball team. Kevin is the grandson of Dot and Ken Stetson of Heath.



TANJA DAVIN

Tanja C. Davin, daughter of Lizz and Bruce Davin of Heath graduated June 1, 1997 from the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester with a doctor of medicine degree. Davin graduated as valedictorian of the Mohawk Trail Regional High School class of 1989. She received a B.S. in Biology cum laude from Tufts University in 1993.

She was also the first recipient of both the Dr. John B. Temple Memorial Scholarship in 1993 and the Dr. Edward F. Spencer Arms Academy Medical-Dental Scholarship in 1994. Dr. Davin will begin her residency in internal medicine/pediatrics at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA on July 1.

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