

HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

75¢

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October/November 2000

Heath Fair 2000

A Fair of Visions and Successes!

By Pat Leuchtman

After a cold and rainy summer, the Heath Fair enjoyed the most spectacular of summer days. Art Schwenger noted that this was the first time in years that there was no rain on the Heath Fair Parade.

Some people thought the Fair seemed small this year, but Bob Gear says that to his mind it's a good fair when no systems fail, when the weather is good, when everyone makes a little money, and when you recognize a lot of people when you walk down the midway.

Well, the weather was great and no systems failed. Money was made! Bob said that for the first time in at least 15 years, fees for concessionaires went up. In fact, the Agricultural Society food booth made more money than usual, and the Fireman's Barbecue sold every single chicken dinner, an accomplishment no one remembers achieving before. Lots of people did lots of visiting on the midway. The fair was a major success, by every measure.

The Exhibit Hall was full, and Bob mentioned the success of the special exhibit prizes for such things as the

largest squash grown by a child, Jack's Favorite, and for the best fudge (his own prize).

Bob loves fudge, and he is getting to be an ever more discriminating connoisseur. Seek-

pes, but some of them work very well."

Riston Donelson won first prize for his fudge this year. Bertha Akley took the Mike Peters Photography Prize;



An aerial view of the Heath Fair 2000, taken by former Heath residents, John and Betty MacDonald.

ers after his prize should note that Bob has specific opinions about fudge. "Fudge has a bouquet, just like wine. That's where I start. There is texture, and, of course, appearance. I personally like the standard fudge, chocolate or penuche, with or without nuts, and I don't like fudge that is shiny, looking like it's been shellacked. Fudge made with chocolate bits always ends up tasting like Hershey bars. I was dubious about microwave reci-

Robin Crowningshield, the Best Squash Collection; Devon Ingraham-Adie, the Best Youth Coloring; Beth Lawless, the Best Child Coloring. Dorothy Hulbert took the First in Jack's Favorite for Beauty, and Ruth Ayers took First in Jack's Favorite in Taste. The Biggest Squash was grown by young Timothy Lively.

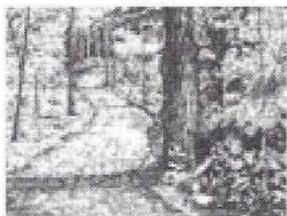
Bob reminds people that if they have a particular passion, they too can set up a special Fair Prize for next year.

As people walked around the fairgrounds, they saw brightly painted plywood silhouettes of many children and their parents. These Sculptured Stories were created during a summer workshop led by Jane Wegsheider, formerly of Kansas. Some of the silhouettes did indeed include stories written on the back describing and explaining the artist.

The round flower bed at the head of the midway is always a fine place to sit, watch the fair, and visit. This year, set among the flowers, were fluttering streamers on poles, each streamer carrying a wish or hope for the future. This Field of Visions was also created by Jane Wegsheider and the children and citizens of Heath.

Jane originally received funding back in Kansas for a Field of Visions art exhibit, and through the Goals 2000 Grant, she was brought to the Heath Elementary School to create a Field of Visions here. All the kids in the school participated and their streamers were exhibited in Kansas before they were brought back to Heath for the Fair.

("Fair" continued on page 6)



From the Editor—

HILLTOWN RAMBLES

October holds beauty in its hands like gold dripping from Midas. Autumn progresses, however daring, however difficult. I'm partial to Sumner Stetson hill, seeing the valley in maple sugar golds and terracotta reds. Coming up Route 8A North and spying the spectacular Donelson's red barn. The trees surrounding it look like they are on fire as the sun is glaring on their changing colors. I used to dislike autumn as it only meant that winter was coming. Now I have come to appreciate it for what it conveys instead of what it removes. I *like*, in a single afternoon, making a lamb stew, putting up carrots, planting garlic, going on a vigorous hike with my husband to see his insane mountain bike path, putting away my garden, red-cheeked from the outdoors. Once I have been shown the beauty of Heath's autumn, I cannot see how I would choose to live anywhere else.

Beauty and gratitude go hand in hand. We very nearly scraped by without a 10th issue. But for the good graces, fortitude, and sheer will power of a wonderful staff, we would never have pulled it off. Dianne Cerone made sure that everybody got his or her copy in by the deadline. Deborah Phillips did some bang-up work writing her first grant proposal. Jane deLeeuw did a resounding job as the paper's right-hand woman. She is "Copy Editor Extraordinaire." Diane Cote, the typographer, 'burned the midnight oil' for the Herald a few nights. Pat Leuchtman willingly wrote two stories, the lead story about the fair and the Heath Kitchen. Eugene, of Adams Specialty & Printing Co., has been a knight in shining armor with suggestions and patience, too.

All was going well until September 11. That's when the ball dropped. I suddenly didn't have my design and layout crew. My friend, Terri Wilson, came from Franklin, MA, after coaching me on the phone for five days. She actually did the layout for a marathon eight-hour stretch. When Terri had gone, it was essential for someone to step in. Eileen Tougas readily helped out, scanning photographs and graphics and helping with the last of the placements. Much appreciation goes to those two amazing "Layout Goddesses!"

I'm telling you all this because of two things. One, to give credit where credit's due and also, to let you know of the seriousness of the situation. When I took over this newspaper last year, the past editor had been looking for a Layout Person for a year also. This is your community. This is your community paper. This is an important part of your history, it allows you access into local happenings, gives you chances to read favorite writers. For the future of your newspaper, please help me find a Layout Person. We desperately need one for the next issue.

Call (413) 337-0217 or E-mail saleda@crocker.com.

- Lea Banks Bohrer

HEATH HERALD

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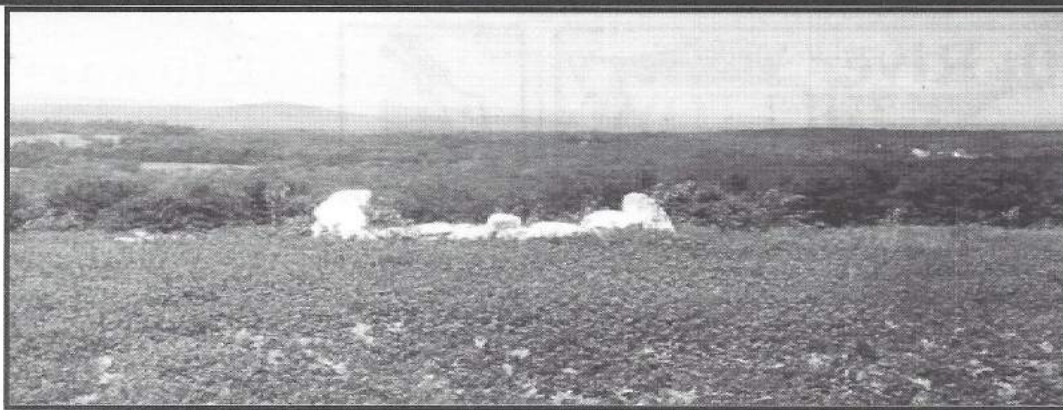
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The Standing Stones of Burnt Hill- Part II

By Colgate Gilbert and June Miller

Contributions by Norman Biggart and Peter Schmid

Continuing the Burnt Hill Project, we have found that the site had an extensive and busy rural context. At different points in time, there were four homesteads, three earthen circles (possible charcoal kilns), an abandoned town road, about nine subdivisions, stone walls, and various field patterns. Also, there are the modern farm buildings, springs, man-made ponds, some twentieth century farm dumps, and about two dozen post 1960 standing stones in bar ways and doorways.

A careful reading of the land and probate records has helped us visualize the site's historic settlement. These farmers left their imprint on Burnt Hill by clearing the land, tilling the soil, and constructing fences and buildings.

A member of the Boston's Hancock family first owned the area until the American Revolution, when it was bought by Asa White of Charlemont who called it "Burnt Hill" in 1778.

Historic settlement began about 1790. Farming crops was difficult because most of the good soil was in small

pockets scattered all over the hill. Homesteads were gradually abandoned until finally Samuel Sweetzer combined them into the 200 acres known as the Burnt Hill Farm.

Josiah Taft, a sharecropper, was the longest resident at the site that we have identified to date. By 1815, he had moved into the Cows house, was modifying some of the fields, and building stone walls. He and his family probably lived there until 1835/1836 when all of the buildings disappear abruptly from the tax inventories. He then moved in with his son, Joshua Taft, Jr., in northeast Heath. Both father and son died in 1842, as did Samuel Steetzer, from presumably unrelated causes. (No other buildings stood on the land until 1950, when the Durises bought the farm.) After 1842, real estate investors in Hatfield and Whately owned the land until the Hamiltons of Heath bought the land in 1920. However, the land remained open pasture during this time, probably because it was leased out to local farmers. The Durises, who had previously cultivated

blueberries in southern Massachusetts, began to use the "Blueberry Barrens" as a blueberry farm beginning in 1950.

The tax inventories tell us that much of the land has remained open since about 1790. The presence of low bush blueberries and the early name "Burnt Hill" may suggest an even earlier period of deforestation at the site. New England Indians used fire to help cultivate low bush blueberries (which they were fond of) and the Mohawk Trail abuts the southernmost end of the hill. The use of the name Burnt Hill in 1778 as a legal district in Asa White's deeds suggests that the name was even older still.

George Sheldon in his "History of Deerfield" also claimed that the Pocumtuck Indians called the region the "Sunsick" or "Stone Place" Hills, that large areas were cleared, and that game was abundant. Allen Healy, in his 1965 "History of Charlemont" states that Burnt Hill had been deforested in prehistoric times and that the Pocumtucks used fire to clear the undergrowth in the forests of the region. Did the

Pocumtucks clear Burnt Hill with fire to encourage and harvest the blueberries? We need to review this possible upland Indian presence by researching the area's prehistory.

Much still needs to be done up at the Burnt Hill Site. We need the stories that the pollen cores and soil samples can tell. And there are still many historic documents we need to find and go through.

Also, we still do not totally understand the layout of the site. For example, about one-third of the stones are too far to the north or south of the furthest positions of the sun and moon. What did these stones mark? Also, why were upright stones used instead of cairns and why build such a calendar? People always move around, whether to follow game, find better farmland, or get a better job. Sets of 200 to 500-pound standing stones are not portable. If the site is a calendar, then the stones were probably stood

("Stones" continued on page 13)



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

We are honored to be invited to the dinner for past editors of the *Heath Herald*. We do wish we could accept but we are afraid it will be too much of a journey for us from Hanover. It would be fun to see all of our old friends as well as meet you and your new staff.

It's hard to realize it was 21 years ago that our group in Heath noted need of getting information around to residents as to what was happening in the Town. Pegge Howland agreed to co-edit the paper with Caroline, with Alli Thane Thane as contributing editor. In searching for a name, the two that stood out were "Heath News and Views" (proposed by Harriet Read) and "Heath Herald." A vote settled on the "Herald," and Harriet Read drew the masthead (which we're glad to see has survived the 20 years.)

Newland volunteered to do the typography and formatting using an old portable electric typewriter. Although the articles were initially typed in columns, these were then literally "cut and pasted" by Pegge to make the final format on a larger size layout page. These pages were then reduced 10% photographically to the final page size. It wasn't until 1983 that Newland was enough familiar with the first IBM PC to begin using WordPerfect for word processing. Not being a trained typist, it was a blessing to have a spell checker do the correction on numerous typos. These still continued to slip through, although Pegge's sharp eye usually picked them up at the last minute in paste-up.

We had a lot of fun in the early days of the *Herald*, writing, editing, and typing. Ed Calver who was our first critic said that the paper would last no more than a year! Caroline and Newland helped to keep it going for 10 years, and now it is more than double that. You are doing a great job using the Adobe computer program, which gives a nice format. Newland wishes that it had been available 20 years ago.

Congratulations and keep the *Heath Herald* going for another 20 years!

~ Caroline and Newland Smith

To the many kind volunteers who so generously helped make the Heath Fair such a wonderful success, I thank you all!

~ Joanne Fortune

ART SHOW IN SHELBURNE FALLS

A show of black and white works in pencil and ink by Heath artist Frederick M. Burrington is coming to the Shelburne Arts Cooperative in Shelburne Falls, MA featuring Heath places and Heath people. You might just recognize them. The gallery is located at 26 Bridge Street; opening night is October 23 from 7-9 p.m. The show runs until November 27. For questions, please contact the gallery at 413-625-9324, or Mr. Burrington, at 413-337-4302. All are invited to stop by.

Dances With Crocodiles

By Michael D. Coe

It was the first light of dawn last May when I sleepily looked out from the porch in front of my room in the lighthouse keeper's quarters, and saw strange shapes hopping across the cleared area: they were several dozen wallabies, a kind of small kangaroo, occasionally nibbling at the grass. Two of the larger ones in the group, probably males, ignored the rest to engage in a spirited boxing match that lasted some quarter of an hour. Finally, bored with the bout, they too disappeared into the nearby eucalyptus forest. Across the way, a large and diverse family of aboriginals, camped inside and outside another house, was just beginning to stir.

I was at Cape Don, the western tip of the Cobourg Peninsula in Australia's "Top End" – the Northern Territory. Since it is located not far south of Indonesia, the peninsula is thoroughly tropical, with warm temperatures and a strongly marked wet and dry season. The "Wet" (our winter) is not a good time to visit: Darwin, the Top End capital, gets torrential rains and horrific thunderstorms on a daily basis. In fact, more lightning strikes are recorded here than in any other place on the globe, and the Darwin airport is decorated with terrifying photomurals of

lightning displays. The "Wet" was now over, and it was a prime time for fishing, which is why I was here (my third visit, in fact).

The entire peninsula, and the huge, low-lying islands just to the west (where I was to fish the following week), are wholly owned by the aboriginals,

a poverty-stricken but culturally rich people whose ancestors had migrated

from the Asiatic mainland to Australia at least 50,000 years ago. Famed as master hunters and trackers, the aboriginals are great fishermen, too, but only with spears rather than hook-and-line. In 1911, the British built a lighthouse on this desolate and dangerous part of the coast, and this was the base from which I went out each morning with boat and guide to hook exotic fish on a fly. Each time I cast out my line, I had no idea of what I might catch. At Cape Don alone, I caught no less than 21 different species, including the barramundi, Australia's most famous game fish.

There were no other fishermen, other than the occasional aboriginal hurling his spear. But other creatures were fishing: these were "salties," the fearsome saltwater crocodiles made famous by the film "Crocodile Dundee." These survivors from the Age of Dinosaurs can achieve a length of over 20 feet, and they have

a reputation among aboriginals and whites alike of being incredibly dangerous and a we-

somely fast (once they see a likely prey). Now protected by the government, there are many thousands of these in the "Top End." I saw an average of six or seven a day in the two weeks that I spent there. My guides impressed upon me two rules: 1) don't try to remove the fly from the fish's mouth with one's hands in the water (look, Ma, no hands!); 2) never stand near deeper water, where "salties" like to hide in ambush. Top End sport fishermen avoid canoeing in billabongs (ponds and lagoons) since "salties" look on canoes as other crocs attempt-

ing to horn in on their territory and knock them over (and God help their occupants).

As if that weren't enough, the Top End has other faunal hazards. For example, during the "Wet," the coastal waters are infested with box jellies, with tentacles whose sting instantly produces what is reputed to be the most painful of all deaths. And then there are the poisonous snakes. I was told that the taipan, the most venomous of the world's snakes, is extremely irascible, and, once it spots an intruder, that unfortunate person will be hunted down at a high speed and fatally bitten.

Lest I make this region sound forbidding, I find it beautiful and fascinating. Where else could one fish miles of coast all day without seeing another fisherman? Even more beautiful than Cape Don was the area that I fished my second week in the Top End. This was Jessie Camp on Melville, Australia's second largest island (after Tasmania). I was the only guest in a true bush camp, primitive by comparison with Cape Don, but very well run by Warren Smith – my fishing guide – and his wife, Tania, who did all the cooking. Each morning Warren would run me out to a good fishing spot, but the high

Where else could one fish miles of coast all day without seeing another fisherman?

("Dances" continued on page 6)

("Dances" continued from page 5)

point of the trip was Goose Creek, the upper reaches of which consisted of fresh water running through paper-bark eucalyptus forests. There was one stretch of the creek where we were assaulted by the chattering and stench of what may have been up to a thousand fly fox bats roosting in the trees. And I will forever remember the courtship dancing of a pair of brolga cranes spotted on nearby grasslands.

So why was I in this remote wilderness? My fly rod target on Goose Creek was the saratoga, a prehistoric-looking fish that lives and feeds underneath the lily pads fringing the creek. Only a few anglers have ever caught this beast on a fly. Yes, I lost three of the six saratogas that took my Dahlberg Diver fly (they have mouths like concrete), but I did get three to the boat – all released, as only a starving person would find them edible.

Eventually, it was time to pack and leave Jessie Camp. Warren and Tania packed, too,

as they were going to spend the following week in Darwin. So, we sat and waited for the light plane that was expected on the Jessie airstrip at 2p.m. And we waited. And waited. And waited. This is the Australian winter, and the sun was getting low on the horizon. Where was the plane? Since troubles always come in clusters, Warren's satellite phone had gone dead so there was no way to contact the Darwin airport to find out where the plane was or whether anybody in the outside world cared. We were stuck for the night, but I had to make a commercial plane connection the next day to take me from Darwin to Sydney and eventually home.

The weather early the next morning was cold, gloomy, and windy. Nevertheless all three of us, plus the camp dog, along with our belongings, set off in the aluminum skiff down the creek to the open ocean, heading west towards Shark Bay, an aboriginal settlement where we knew there was radiotele-

phone service. The three-hour trip was wet and rough, but we got there safely, only to get bogged down in tidal mud right next to our destination. We finally got the boat free and found a very modern fishing camp with a welcome hot shower and large breakfast. A quick call to the mainland brought in a plane, and off I went to Darwin, just in time for my Sydney connection.

And, yes, I am going back to the Top End some day soon, regardless of the crocodiles and the box jellies and the taipans. This place has me thoroughly hooked.

***HEY! Do you know of
anyone, retired, or an
energetic student
perhaps, who would
like to help out with the
Heath Herald graphics?
Knowledge of Quark,
PageMaker, Publisher,
all are welcome!
Please contact Lea
at 337-0217.***

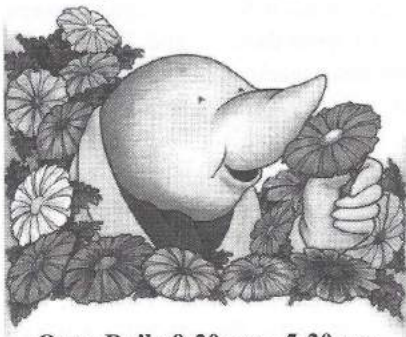
("Fair" continued from page 1)

All during the Fair, fairgoers could stop at the Heath School booth and create their own streamers to add to the exhibit. More 'vision sticks' were carried in the Fair Parade on Sunday, bright and shining, just like the dreams and hopes we have for our town, our world, and ourselves.

Many people in Heath were inspired by Jane this year – but she was inspired by Heath as well. As mentioned, she is FORMERLY of Kansas. As she worked at the Heath School she fell in love with the town and its residents; she is moving here with her six-year-old son Ezekiel and will be teaching art at the Heath, Rowe, and Hawlemont schools!

Fairs don't get any more successful than that. A celebration of all the people who were born here, or happily found their way here, finding fertile ground for the fulfillment of dreams.

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Summer Bash

The summer months were quite busy for us to say the least! In June we wrapped up the school year with a Summer Bash at the fairgrounds. Other than the fact that there were tornado warnings and deadly lightning around us we still managed to have a decent time. Thank you to all who helped to make this possible.

July brought its own challenges. We had the privilege of participating in Heath's Millennial Centennial celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the Heath Historical Society. Lisa was busy leading children in authentic old-fashioned games while I was attempting to bring the Community Hall stage alive with a revue of the Heath Variety

Show 2000. It seems as though all of the events of the day were enjoyable and well received. Lisa and I enjoyed working with the members of the Historical Society and would like to thank them on behalf of the Heath Elementary School for their dedication, their spirit, and their time. It's amazing what can be accomplished when we all work together toward a common goal. Thanks again to the Heath Historical Society and Happy 100th Anniversary!

*It's amazing what
can be accomplished
when we all work
together toward a
common goal.*

As the summer came to a close, we were busy setting up the "Heath Elementary School" booth at the Heath Fair. We sold soda, water,

candy, coffee, tea, cocoa, and raffle tickets. Thanks to Deb and Bruce Phillips we offered

miniature golf again this year. More than 40 volunteers, including several students, came forth to help raise \$1,700 for the preschool and the partnership. We would like to ex-

tend a heartfelt thanks to all for their help and support and thank you to Robert Gear for his hard work. The fairgrounds looked beautiful!

A new school year is once again upon us. Already on the agenda is our wrapping paper fund-raiser, school picture day (October 10), a BMX Bike and In-Line Skate Assembly and talk of a Halloween Party. Look for further information on these things and more at school and around town. Any questions or comments call Mary Beth O'Dea @337-8683, Lisa Muenkel @337-8472 or E-mail us at thepartnership@hotmail.com

~ Mary Beth O'Dea

Town Nurse Notes

Remedies For Colds



It's good for us to have a cold once in a while. It's our body's way of asking us to slow down and take some time off to cozy up in bed and reflect on our life. Sometimes, though, being sick is downright inconvenient and uncomfortable. At the very first sign of a cold, try some of the following:

~Keep a ginger root in your freezer. Sliver off about a tablespoon and bring it to a boil in about 2 cups of water. With a towel over your head, deeply breathe in the steam. When it cools, strain it and drink the tea.

~Run a vaporizer next to your bed at night.

~Run a humidifier during the winter months to keep the mucous membranes moist (or keep a pan of water on the woodstove). It is imperative that you clean the humidifier regularly, according to manufacturer's directions.

~Drink at least 8 glasses of water to move the viruses out of your throat to your stomach where the acid will destroy them.

~Abstain from or go easy on sugar, caffeine, dairy products, and alcohol. Viruses thrive on sugar and alcohol.

Caffeine doesn't allow relaxation. Dairy products increase mucous secretions.

~Make Fire Cider: 2 finely chopped onions, 1 finely chopped whole head of garlic (all the cloves), 1/3 cup finely chopped horseradish, 4 tablespoons grated fresh ginger. Cover all with apple cider vinegar in a quart jar, cap and store in a warm spot for 4 weeks. Strain. For each cup of liquid, add 1/2 cup (or less) honey and a pinch of cayenne to taste. At the first sign of a cold, take 1 teaspoon every 1 hour until cold symptoms are relieved.

The Department of Public Health has informed me there will be less flu vaccine this fall and it won't be available until November. If you have medical insurance and can get your flu shot from your medical practitioner, please do so. Thank you.

I have office hours at the Community Hall (337-4847) on Tuesdays from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. My home phone is 337-5716. Have a safe and healthy autumn.

~ Joanne Fortune, R.N.

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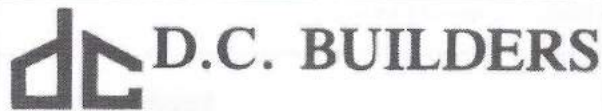


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LIBRARY LINES



8,957 minutes of reading later, six crafty craft-times, a sassy story hour with Alicia Quintano, a hopping library, and our very busy summer is now a wrap-up. Congratulations to Seneca Underwood, Megan Garnet, Katrina Garnet, and Krista Mozclak for completing our summer reading program and logging in that much time! Each was given a gift certificate to Boswell's Books, made possible by our Friends of the Library. Our Wednesday evening craft times were well-attended, definitely messy, and enjoyed by the those who found their way there. Thanks to all of the parents who helped with clean-up.

New Books Grant

The library has received a grant from the LIBRI Foundation, a non-profit group out of Eugene, Oregon, which donates new books to small rural public libraries through its "Books for Children" program. LIBRI will match funds raised for our library on a 2:1 ratio. Friends of the Library raised \$350 for this project at their book sale at the Heath Fair. After the books arrive, we will be asking folks to an afternoon or evening "Book Tea" for everyone to pitch in and help process our beautiful new books! Please watch for dates on this.

On Community

It is sometimes easy to forget that you are not by yourself when working in public service in a small town. Most people in Sawyer Hall work without a ready network of others with whom they can check in. Even in the library, often a hive of activity and helped out by a number of great people, all of whom are volunteers, a reality check is sometimes necessary for our well-being.

Bookmobile Cuts

We receive over 500 new books, audios and videos for all ages every nine weeks from the Bookmobile. Within our Western Mass. Regional Library Service organization there is talk of cutting back bookmobile service, due to budget cuts. Our library is very dependent on this service. It helps small libraries provide communities with a large range of materials. It is a great "sharing of the wealth." I am asking that anyone who has enjoyed this service to please write a letter and send it to the Heath library. I will gather the responses and bring them to the November 15 meeting in Hatfield where the issue will be discussed.

Story Hours

Fall and Winter Story Hours for Children 0-4 are on Saturdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. This year, funding will be provided by both the Franklin County Family Network and the West County Community Partnership.

New Author!

Our own Jonathan Diamond's first book, "Narrative Means to Sober Ends: Treating Addiction and its Aftermath" is now available at the library. Well done, Jonathan!

~ Laurie Wheeler Burrington

Appropriate Technology and Old Tractors

By Bernard den Ouden

On a recent trip to Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, I spotted and had preliminary conversations, which I hope will eventually result in the acquisition of two older diesel tractors. One is a 650 International which was used for many years in wheat country. The other is a 730 John Deere and is one of the last in the two-cylinder series. I am not in a hurry and if these purchases go through in time, they will be based as much on friendship and shared values as money. When you spend two or three decades on a machine, you want to have it go to someone who cares about it and appreciates its strengths, weaknesses, and beauty.

My newfound friend Calvin Knutson from Tuttle, North Dakota, informed me that his 650 International with

the same motor as my Churchill TD-9 would plow and plant an acre of wheat on one gallon of fuel. This is what we call appropriate or lean technology. With a good running P.T.O. combine, wheat could be harvested for less than half that amount. I have asked Mr. Knutson's nephew to look for a pony drill so that I can have a full complement of our wheat-farming friends' planting and harvesting technology. The plow and combine are already in place. I also want to add to my small collection of older diesels.

My North Dakota friends farm with machines and technology that fit their acres and income. They don't pride themselves on having the newest and the biggest machines. Their equipment has helped them to make a good living rather than burden them with unserviceable debt. The

Knutsons remind me of Ralph and Howard Dickinson and Carroll Stowe who take great pride in getting their work done with tractors they never had to borrow money to buy. These old cast-iron horses have motor designs, which they understand. They last as long as one cares to maintain them.

In North Dakota, I also met three men who farm together on family land of about 3,500 acres. They rent another 1,500 acres. They have all state-of-the-art, large-scale, Versatile and John Deere equipment. They own their semi-trucks and have all their machines paid for. Last year, with wheat under three dollars a bushel, they told me that it would have been more profitable for them to sit in the house and never turn a wheel. The cost of herbicides, fertilizer, fuel, supplies, and rent did not pencil

out. These three fellows are very efficient.

I wonder if Mr. Knutson, by planting some of his ground, letting some lie fallow, and leaving the wheat straw in the field to replenish the soil, would have made out a little better with his forty-five-year-old tractor, trailer plow, pony drill, and pull-type power take-off combine. I would surmise that whatever income he made would be appropriate to the wise and frugal lifestyle that he and his wife enjoy. We would do well to learn from these old machines and the people who know to use them judiciously.



Town of Heath Recycled Products Procurement Policy

In recognition of the need to make more efficient use of our natural resources, create markets for the materials collected in recycling programs, reduce solid waste volume and disposal costs, and serve as a model for private and public institutions, the Town of Heath is committed to purchasing products which are environmentally preferable and/or made of recycled materials whenever such products meet quality requirements and are available at reasonable prices and terms.

To the maximum extent practicable, the following materials should be adhered to:

a) For all purchases of printing and writing paper for in house use or custom printed materials by professional printers, including copier paper, offset paper, forms, stationary, envelopes, tablets, notepads and file folders, the minimum content stan-

dards shall be no less than 20% post-consumer recycled materials to meet the current state and federal minimum standards. This minimum standard may be increased to 30% beginning December 31, 1998, to match the scheduled increase in federal minimum standards.

b) Town Departments shall ensure that all contracts for printing require the inclusion of an imprint identifying the recycled content of the paper whenever practicable, along with the recycling symbol.

c) For the purpose of measuring the progress of the program and success in meeting the recycling goals of the Commonwealth, each department shall report purchases of recycled products to the Town Coordinator on July 31 for the previous fiscal year.

★ Heath Business Directory ★

Members of the Heath Enterprise Council

Bald Mountain Pottery
625-8110

The Benson Place
Blueberries & Applesauce
337-5340

Fred Burrington
Artist
337-4302

Cable's Burnt Hill
Blueberries
337-4454

James Cerone
Builder
337-4210

Coursey Design
Interior architecture & design
337-4751

D.C. Builders
Branch Hill Road
337-4705

Robert Delisle
Electrician
337-5716

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

Earl M. Gleason
Fire Equipment
337-4948

Heath Brook Studio
Glass and Baskets
337-5736

L & S Enterprises
Leisure Furniture Maker
337-5505

Patricia Lentz
Indigo Glassworks
337-5375

Maple Ledge Farm
Maple Syrup Year Round
337-4705

John Mooney
Custom Remodeling
337-8344

Wanda Mooney
Realtor
337-8344

Alan Nichols
Furniture Maker
337-6665

Russlin Saw
Power Equipment,
Sales and Service
337-8704

C. Richards Steinbock
Graphic Design
337-4746

Phyllis E. Thane
Book Binding
337-4759

Tripp's Blueberries
Taylor Brook Road
337-4964

Paul Turnbull
Janice Boudreau
Commercial/Wedding Photographers
337-4033

Bonnie Wodin
Custom Gardens & Landscapes
337-5529

Support Your Local Businesses

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

Richard A. Sumner

Journeyman Electrician
Mass. License #E22622 • Vermont License #J1245
20A Eight A South • Charlemont, MA 01339
(413) 337-4845



Charlemont Pizza House
Main Street - Route 2
Charlemont, Mass.
Phone: 339-4472

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Reg. #123769 25 Groll Rd.
Lic. # 075587 Heath, Ma.
Fully Insured (413) 337-5561

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al-nichols.com

169 South Road alan@al-nichols.com
Heath, Massachusetts 01346 413-337-6665

Assessor's Report

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax

The Assessors' Office is where you apply for an abatement for your motor vehicle excise tax. There are quite a few circumstances that allow the assessors to grant an abatement:

- If you feel that your vehicle is overvalued
- If you have cancelled your registration
- If you are transferring the plates to another vehicle
- If you have moved out-of-state
- If the vehicle is stolen

In order to apply for an abatement you must fill out a yellow application form (they are available on the door of the assessors' office in Sawyer Hall even when we are not meeting.) Besides the application form, some backup material may be needed. If you have transferred your plate to another vehicle, you must also attach a copy of the new registration. If you have cancelled the registration, you should attach a copy of the Plate Return Receipt from the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

One problem Heath has stems from mailing addresses. As in many small towns, residents of Heath receive their mail from a number of other town post offices. When you register your car you must take care to note the town where the car is garaged. Your insurance coverage collection sheet should state where the vehicle is garaged. If it is not correct, the bill (generated by the Registry) will go to the wrong town's assessors. Weekly, we get bills which have been sent to the other towns

in our area forwarded to us because the taxpayer did not specify Heath as the place where the car is garaged.

If you move and have not given a change of address to the Registry, your excise bill will be sent to your former address. Whether this bill is forwarded to you at your new address or not, as long as the bill was mailed to the address on the registration, the Registry has fulfilled its duty to give notice. This means that you, as registrant, will be responsible for any interest and fees incurred despite having received the bill! You must notify the Registry of changes of address. Beyond interest and fees, overdue motor vehicle excise bills can cause other problems for the registrant. Once a demand notice for late fees and interest is sent, if it remains unpaid for 14 or more days, the tax collector notifies the Registry. The Registry then places a non-renewal status on the registrant's license and registration. This prevents renewal of your license or registration until all accrued taxes, interest, and fees are paid.

The moral of the story is: Pay your motor vehicle excise bills promptly! In order to pay them promptly, you must receive them promptly so be careful in filling out your insurance and registration forms and keep the Registry apprised of changes of address. Even if you feel you have a valid basis for abatement, pay the bill in its entirety and then file an abatement form.

~ Margo Newton

Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA)

0% Deferred Payment Loans Now Available

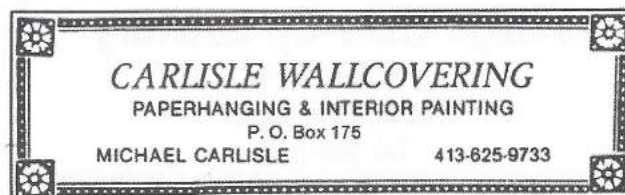
HRA may soon be administering 0% deferred payment housing rehabilitation loans on behalf of Heath. These loans provide an affordable means for home owners to bring their homes into code compliance, do needed repairs, and weatherize their homes.

"Deferred Payment," means the homeowner will have no monthly loan payment. The amount loaned is secured by a lien placed on the property and the loan amount is due upon the sale or transfer of the property. Owners are eligible for loans up to \$20,000 - \$25,000 (depending on severity of code violations.)

Some examples of work that can be done (but not limited to):

bathroom repair, burner furnace replacement, carpentry, chimneys, ceiling/wall repair, doors, windows, electrical work, floors, foundation repair, hot water systems, insulation, joists, lead paint removal, painting, plumbing, pumps, septic systems, sill work, sheetrock, storm windows, roofs, wells, and MUCH MORE!!!!

Call HRA today to see if you qualify at (413) 863-9781, ext. 150.





The Way It Is

*"If it's old, works well,
and has a purpose in life, don't change it."* ⑨

Farewell To A Great Person

By Carroll Stowe

Tuesday, August 22, was the day many Heath people saw a fine person to her final rest.

To me, Edith Gleason, though small of stature, was a giant of a person. It would be most difficult to number the people Mrs. Gleason guided on their way in life. My feelings about Mrs. Gleason were that she never could do enough for her fellowman.

Her life covered many aspects. As a teacher in early adulthood her influence on young people in one-room schoolhouses had to have been uncountable.

Ages ago, the Stowe Farm in Colrain raised turkeys to sell for Thanksgiving and Christmas. It was a lot of work to ready these large birds to sell. Much of the help for this operation came from the students of agriculture at Arms Academy.

One year, after one part of the turkey dressing project was over with, my mother wanted to put on a good meal for all who had helped for which she engaged the use of the dining room at the Colrain Baptist Church. Mrs. Gleason was well aware of the large task facing my mother and truly out of the goodness of her heart she volunteered to be of help to my dear mother. Others helped to put on this great food fest but I was most impressed with Mrs. Gleason's extreme kindness.

There's not paper enough to describe the help Edith Gleason has been to young and old alike. The line would be endless if all she pointed in the right direction were to come to her two sons, Earl and Walter, and her two grandsons, Danny and Glen, to express the good example she had set for them.

I have a treasured memento of Earl and Walt's mother. It's her signature on my library card.

Her rest is well earned.

What Is Success?

To laugh often and much;

To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;

To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;

To appreciate beauty;

To find the best in others;

To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition;

To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived;

This is to have succeeded.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Signs of Regret

The Heath Herald had to regretfully cancel its
Honorary Potluck Scheduled for Saturday September 9.

Stay Tuned for another attempt later on
when it's not such a busy, dizzy time

7 AM to 9 PM
Do your Sleeping Bags, Quilts, Comforters,
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Saturdays 8:30AM - 5PM
Sundays & Holidays 9AM - 12 Noon

52 Bridge Street

Shelburne Falls

Selectboard's Report

Heath on Line

Storm Damage

The highway crew continues to make repairs to roads, shoulders and drainage structures necessitated by the storm earlier this summer. The Natural Resources Conservation Service division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will handle some of the repairs, providing seventy-five percent of the funding. NRCS projects will be those along Taylor Brook Road, Colrain Stage Road, and Route 8A north. The State has authorized the Town to spend in excess of appropriations to fund the cost of the storm repairs. The Selectboard is in contact with state and federal officials and our representatives in an effort to bring financial assistance to the Town.

Appointments

The Selectboard has been working on appointments for FY2001. A number of positions have been filled but some are vacant. Candidates are needed for the Council on Aging, Town Buildings and Facilities Committee, Alternate Registrars, Board of Health, and Finance Committee. Please contact the Selectboard or members of these boards if you are interested in serving in one of the positions.

Community Hall and Sawyer Hall

Bids for roofing and repairs to the Community Hall and Sawyer Hall have been received and are in excess of the amount budgeted for the work. The Selectboard and the Facilities committee are considering the options for moving ahead with the work.

School Budget

David Howland has been leading the effort to arrive at a permanent solution to our school financing problems. We have agreed to hire an educational consultant to review the Town's situation and make recommendations for an appeal to the State for an adjustment to our assessment formulae or for a special grant to the Town to help get our educational spending in line with our ability to pay. The consultant is Ed Moscovitch of Cape Ann Economics in Gloucester, MA. Ed was a contributor to the drafting of the Education Reform legislation and comes highly recommended.

Three-Town Landfill

The Selectboards of Heath, Charlemont, and Hawley have been reviewing the proposed deed for the transfer of ownership of the former landfill from the current owner to the three towns. The towns will bear responsibility for monitoring the ground water quality and for any future capping project that may be required by the State Department of Environmental Protection.

Heath On Line

TheTown now has an E-mail address: heath@townofheath.org and a home page: www.townofheath.org. Send messages to any board or individual via the E-mail address or visit the Heath home page. The Town's Home page is a work in progress. Thanks to the computer committee for getting this project up and running.

~Heath Selectboard, Thomas Lively – Chair,
Brian DeVriese, Charles Mackie

**The Selectboard meets every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m.
in the basement of the Community Hall.**



ASTER.



WINTERGREEN



WITCH HAZEL

("Stones" continued from page 3)

up sometime in the past 100 to 1000 years. That time frame still leaves several possible candidates: historic secret societies, alchemists hiding out in "Indian Territory," or the local Indians themselves.

Our continuing research at the site will help us answer these and other questions. In time our research will put together a detailed history of the many things that took place on Burnt Hill and hopefully help us solve the mystery of its standing stones.

Note: the Burnt Hill site is on private property, which is used as an operating farm. Visitation is limited to occasional tours by appointment only after the harvest.

*"If the world seems cold to you,
kindle fires to warm it".*

~ Lucy Larcom

Blue Ribbon Food

By Pat Leuchtman

The staff of life is bread. The wonderful breads on display at this year's Heath Fair bear eloquent testimony to the fact that homemade bread is nothing like the plastic wrapped bread one gets at the supermarket. Hilma Sumner, winner of a number of blue ribbons at this year's fair, and at many others in the past, says that of all her cooking her family most enjoys the bread she bakes. She herself especially enjoys baking blueberry pie and blueberry cake. Made with Good Heath Blueberries, of course. "I can't say I love to cook;" Hilma said, "I'd rather sew. But, when cooking, its baking I enjoy most."

Hilma says she certainly gained part of her skill from her mother Ruth Churchill who is a wonderful cook, but she also remembers with affection and appreciation the 4-H cooking club headed up by Nada Stetson who was the cook at the Branch Elementary School.

Hilma has a substantial collection of blue ribbons from the Heath Fair, each with its exhibit tag so she actually knows what the ribbon was for, and she plans to put them in a scrapbook – someday. In the meantime we can all try our hand with some of her prize-winning recipes.

Heath Emergency Services News

By Timothy Lively – EMT

The following EMT calls were answered since the last issue of the Herald:

8/10/00 – Main Street – Medical

8/28/00 – Colrain Stage Rd. – Medical

9/03/00 – South Rd. – Motor vehicle rollover

We handled a few cuts and bumps at the First Aid booth during the fair weekend. Thank you to Barbara, Gary, Dave, Joanne, Robin, and anyone else who helped staff the First Aid booth. At the present time we have two first responders in Heath (Barbara Purington and Gary Singley) waiting to take their state EMT exams. Good luck to both of them. If you are interested in becoming an EMT, feel free to call Tim at 337-4742 to learn when the next class will be coming up.

Blue Ribbon Bread or Rolls

2/3 cup sugar	1/2 cup shortening
1 tsp. salt	1 cup boiling water
2 eggs	2 pkg. yeast
1/2 cup warm water	5 cups flour

Put sugar, shortening, and salt in a large bowl. Add boiling water and stir to dissolve shortening. Set aside to cool. Dissolve yeast in warm water. When shortening mixture is cool, add yeast mixture and eggs. Add enough flour to make stiff dough. Knead until smooth. Cover and put in refrigerator overnight – or chill for at least one hour. Cut in half and shape into two loaves, or cut and shape into about two dozen rolls. Let rise until double and bake in preheated 350 degree oven for 30 – 35 minutes.

Blueberry Brunch Cake

3/4 cup sugar	2 cups floured blueberries
1/4 cup shortening	

Topping:

1 egg	1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup milk	1/3 cup flour
2 cups flour	1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. salt	1/4 cup cold butter or margarine

Mix sugar and shortening thoroughly. Add egg and mix well. Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Beginning and ending with flour mixture, add flour and milk alternately to the sugar mixture. Fold in blueberries and pour batter into greased 9" square cake pan. Blend together ingredients for topping with a fork, using cold butter or margarine to prevent topping from being pasty. It should have a crumbly appearance. Sprinkle crumb mixture on batter. Bake 45 minutes in preheated 350 degree oven.



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(413) 339-4954

Milestones

Edith M. (Marshall) Gleason, 93, of Heath, died August 19, 2000, at the Anchorage Nursing home. She was born February 3, 1907, the daughter of Fred and Edith Marshall of Methuen. A graduate of the former North Adams Normal School, she taught school in Hawley, Williamsburg, Heath, and Rowe. A Heath resident for many years, she served her community as Heath Librarian, secretary of the Heath Fair, a member of the Grange, and the Ladies Aid. She also helped the Fire Department, and was a member of the Heath Church.

She leaves two sons, Earl and Walter, both of Heath; a brother, Leland Marshall, of Northboro; and a sister, Audrey Dutton, of Tabares, FL; two grandsons; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held in the Heath Church with Pastor Colin Lucid officiating. Burial was in the North Heath Cemetery.

Alice A. (Jackson) Kinsman, 59, of Colrain Stage Road, died September 8, 2000 at home. Born in Simpson, LA. January 10, 1941, she was the daughter of Homer and Martha Jackson.

Before moving to Heath in 1994, she was employed by the U.S. Army Department in Washington, DC as a civilian personnel management specialist. She had been employed for the Federal Government for 26 years. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Colrain, and of the Heath Historical Society.

She married F. Rollo Kinsman in 1968. In addition to her husband, she leaves a daughter, Elizabeth, at home; her mother, of Simpson; a brother; Richard Jackson, of Brian, TX; and two sisters, Lanelle Andre, of Simpson and Edith Tolbert, of Hindstown, LA.

Services were held in the First Baptist Church of Colrain with the Rev. Robert Peck officiating. Burial was in the Center Cemetery.

Darwin H. Clark Sr. of Hawley died August 31, 2000. He leaves his wife Dorothy; four sons, Darwin H. Jr. and Timothy, both of Hawley; and Roger and William Clark, both of Heath; four daughters, Joanne, of Hawley; Judith Johnson and Linda Reynolds, of Charlemont, and Doreen Gagner of Greenfield; 21 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren. Mr. Clark had many friends in Heath.

Patricia Ann Williamson of Greenwich, CT, and a long-time summer resident of Heath, died Sept. 23, 2000, in Bristol, TN. Born in Greenwich, CT, June 16, 1929, she was the daughter of Joseph C. and Hilda Bailey, and was a graduate of Pine Manor College and Katherine Gibbs. She was a realtor in Greenwich. Survivors include three sons, Raymond E., of New Canaan, CT, Robert W., of Stam-

ford, CT, and Roger C., of Sandy Hook, CT; seven grandchildren and her former husband, Raymond E. Williamson. Memorial donations may be made to: NHLBI Gift Funds for ARDS Research c/o Dr. Claude Lesant at NIH, 31 Center Drive, MSC2486, Bldg. 31, Rm. 5A52, Bethesda, MD 20892

~ Edith Royer

Churchill Reunion

The annual reunion of the descendents of Frederick and Josephine (Willis) Churchill was held August 6 at the family homestead, now the home of Hilma (Churchill) and Richard Sumner.

There were 116 family members and guests attending. The oldest member present was Ruth Churchill, 88, of Heath, and the youngest was Mark Richard, six-week-old son of Diane and David Churchill of Greenville Junction, ME. David and his family also traveled the farthest to attend the reunion.

The group enjoyed a noon and evening cookout, catching up on family news, and games of horseshoes, and volleyball. The children had a sawdust pile and other games. For the family millennial celebration, the children made handprints on cloth and other family members created squares that will be made into a family quilt for display at future reunions. Any family members who would like to contribute a quilt square may do so up until Christmas. Family members were also able to purchase T-shirts commemorating the establishment of the reunion in 1937.

Officers elected for the 2001 reunion were: president, Barbara Churchill; secretary, Charlene Churchill; food committee, Susan and John Lawless and Abigail and Colin Churchill; and children's entertainment, Gail and Jackie Wallace and family.

Next year's reunion will be held at the same location on the first Sunday in August.

A Reminder!

Time is running out to apply to the Heath Cultural Council for a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Applications, available at the Heath Library, must be delivered to the Heath Cultural Council at the Town Hall and be post-marked October 16.

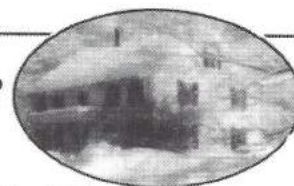


Wanda
Mooney CRS, GRI



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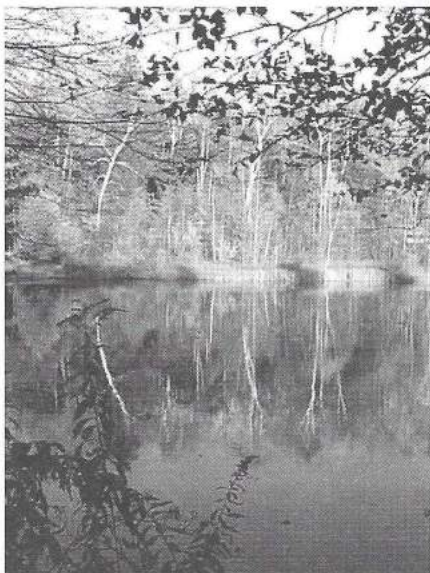


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Papoose Lake, Heath, MA
Photo by Eileen Tougas

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