



HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

75¢

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December/January 2003



Reflections

We invited town officials, heads of organizations, and community members to reflect on the activities of the past year and give us their plans and hopes for 2003. Our thanks to the following contributors.

Town Coordinator

For the year that I've been privileged to work and get to know community members in Heath, I've had the opportunity to help be a part of a progressive movement in small-town government. As most of you know, trying to manage more with less isn't an easy task.

I'm eager to be involved in every department when it comes to helping to make improvements that are beneficial to the town. Helping to establish a plan, coordinating upgrades, in other words, making things happen is what I love being a part of. It's as simple as making of list of things to do and crossing off an item as you complete it. Making contact on a regular basis and establishing lines of communication to key persons is essential to the success of any business-town government.

I'm working hard on behalf of the town to make sure that funds are secured to bring the much needed improvements to life. I want to be sure taxpayers are getting the most for their dollar. Assisting in helping to provide an extremely sound fiscal budget and to get the tax rate lowered was the goal. Simply stated, we made it happen. I'm glad I'm a part of it.

In 2003, the elevator at Town Hall will be installed. And, to everyone's delight, the Community Hall is once again open for senior business! If you are free on the first Thursday of the month at lunchtime, and haven't taken advantage of getting over to the Hall to enjoy a delicious meal, not to mention the conversation, you don't know what

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you're missing. I'm hoping the activities at the Hall will begin to multiply for not only seniors in Heath, but for those in nearby towns as well.

Heath has had, and continues to have, so much to offer. And for me, its only the beginning. Happy Holidays to you and your family.

~ Becky Jurek

Heath Fair 2002

The 2002 Heath Fair is history. Most of the bills are paid, and we are actively making plans for 2003.

This year's Fair was a success as far as events and entertainment were concerned. Attendance was average except for Friday which was understandable considering the thunderstorms.

Financially, it was not as successful as we would like. After all the bills are paid it looks like the Society lost over \$11,000. We have been losing small amounts on the Fair for the past few years but have always been able to make it up on rentals during the winter months. Increases in insurance (\$4,000) and the loss of State help for premiums (\$7,000) have really affected us. The Wells Fund (\$3,400) and the Community Fund (\$4,900) grants cover some of these losses and help keep us afloat, but we still come up short and don't have anything left for maintenance.

Another area that we are coming up short on is volunteer help. It takes an incredible amount of effort before and during the fair to pull it all together. We need people to plant and weed flower gardens, pick up trash, manage and help out in the food booths, mow, trim, write a bimonthly article for this newspaper, help out at the horse pull, and the Beemer's Rally. The list seems endless. The core group of active volunteers is getting older and really needs help.

With the financial shortfall and lack of volunteers, it is becoming increasingly difficult. Does anyone have any ideas? It has been suggested that we approach businesses to sponsor the premiums (Agway, for instance), the horse pull and ox draw, and any other expensive events, but it takes time, and the core group of volunteers is already stretched to the limit.

The Fair is an important part of Heath. I am amazed that a town of our size can host an event with the appeal and reputation that the Fair enjoys. It is a major fund-raiser for the Fire Department, Friends of the Library, the Church, and Heath School, and is eagerly anticipated by young and old.

The Fair and Heath have changed over the years. We have lost much of our agricultural heritage. It is not hard to imagine a future Heath without farms or fair.

The Heath Agricultural Society meets the second Thursday of every month at the Heath School in the winter and at the fairgrounds in the summer. Please call 337-5716 for more information.

~ Bob Delisle

("Reflections" continued on page 3)

("Reflections" continued from page 2)

The View From Burnt Hill

The view from Burnt Hill will never change even though ownership recently did. Before I sold the farm this past July, I sold the development rights to the State under the Agricultural Preservation Reserve program. This program preserves open space and farming. By selling to A.P.R. a restriction is put on the property deed FOREVER. In this case, the property will always be a low bush blueberry farm with vistas and historical sites preserved. This is my legacy to Heath and future generations.

Porter and Susan Schriber who purchased the farm are going to be keepers of the land and its heritage. I feel very comfortable turning ownership over to them. Their passion for the view, historical sites, and the blueberries is significant, and they will also be an asset to the community.

Even though I have left Heath as a resident, my 36 years there have been the best years of my life. I thank everyone for their kindness and respect. God Bless all of you. Happy holidays.

~ Jack Cable

A Bit of the Past in Heath

It is interesting to remember how Heath was 50 years ago and realize how times and lifestyles have changed.

There were 19 dairy farms when our family moved here in 1958. Many people stayed here in town to farm and others went down to Kendall Mills in Colrain to work. In fact, some of the farmers went to "the mill" to work in the winter months to supplement their income. The children all went to Branch School on 8A. There were eight grades, three rooms, three teachers, a cafeteria, and a warm family atmosphere. In fact, one of the teachers brought in used clothing for those who were without and even gave the boys haircuts when needed.

The town politics was Republican. We, my husband and I, who came from near Boston never dared admit that we were Democrats. The annual town meeting was held on Wednesday, starting in the morning, stopping for a nice warm "dinner" at noon, and continuing in the afternoon. Consequently, we women downstairs cooking, were never able to attend. However, we did send a delegate upstairs every now and then to listen and keep the rest of us informed. The voting at this meeting was done by a show of hands which created a bit of reticence for the faint-hearted. In fact, it was my present husband who introduced the use of paper ballots in town.

The main roads were paved but most of the side roads were dirt and difficult to maneuver during mud season. Consequently, the school children had two or three weeks off in the spring because the roads were impassable. The fact that this always occurred during sugaring season made me wonder if the need for extra help wasn't the reason for the school break.

We had a busy "Grange." The kids all had square dance lessons at the newly renovated Community Hall. We had a "Young Adults' Club" (believe it or not, we were once young adults),

wonderful sliding parties, "serenades" for the newly married, lots of public suppers, and Saturday night square dances.

I'll leave you with all these memories and you can realize how times have changed. It was a beautiful, simple but hard-working life.

~ Alli Thane-Stetson

Librarian

The past year, and I have to extend the time frame back eighteen months actually, has been exciting, interesting, and challenging for me personally and for our library.

In June 2001 I returned to live in Heath after an absence of twenty-three years, other than for short visits with my family. I had been fortunate to be able to follow many of the changes in our town through the pages of this newspaper and the *West County News*. I also received a more personal perspective from my family and friends in town. I hoped when I returned that many of the aspects which had made Heath a great place to live and grow up in had not been lost over the intervening years.

I am happy to say I have found that while the nature of the community has changed in some ways many of the values which formed the basis for this community in the past are still strong. Heath is no longer a community with its daily life centered on the struggle to maintain a family farm. Many of the adults who live here work elsewhere during the day now and others have home-based businesses in town. Our community still maintains its commitment to local education for its children, to preserving its history and planning for the future, and to its wonderful attribute of neighbor helping neighbor in time of trouble.

I was very fortunate in July 2001 to become Director of our library. It has been very rewarding to be in this job for the past year and a half. I have been given the chance to meet many of the year round and seasonal residents. It is wonderful that one of the first stops many new residents make is to visit our library.

Don Purington of Colrain joined the library staff in November 2001. Don is a great asset to the library. He works to help patrons find what they want, either in our collection or through interlibrary loan. In September he began leading the story hours we have every two weeks for two to four year olds at the library. We have been having attendance of between nine and eleven youngsters plus parents or other caregivers at each session. Don has also been willing and able to run the library each Saturday starting after Labor Day while I have been in school.

Last spring I applied for and was accepted into Simmons College's Master of Science in Library and Information Science program. Classes are held on Saturdays on the Mount Holyoke College campus in South Hadley thus allowing us country folks to avoid the dreaded trip to Boston. I am enjoying the challenge of this academic pursuit and I feel I will be able to utilize what I learn to benefit our library. I am very grateful to the Board of Trustees for supporting me in this.

When I started as Director, I began to track the number of hours volunteers worked for our library. For the fiscal year

which ended in June 2002 we had nineteen volunteers who worked 221 hours. Our volunteers do all sorts of things to help. They carry materials when the Bookmobile visits, file catalog cards, shelve returned materials, etc., etc. We would have many projects we could not get done without our dedicated volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at our library, please contact me.

Another exciting aspect of planning for our future library needs, which has been moving forward this year, is work on the Planning and Design Grant which we received from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 2001. Please read the *Library Lines* column in this edition of the *Herald* for more on this project.

An area of concern for all libraries this year is the budget crisis on both the state and municipal levels. Our regional library system, which provides Bookmobile, interlibrary loan, and many other services to local libraries, has suffered a 24% budget cut for FY03. This means they are unable to purchase new materials for their collection and have had to close the regional offices on Fridays as unpaid furlough days for staff. We are hopeful some of the region's materials budget will be restored next year.

Even with the budget issues we face, the year 2002 has been a good year at our library, and we look forward to another in 2003!

~ Charlene Churchill



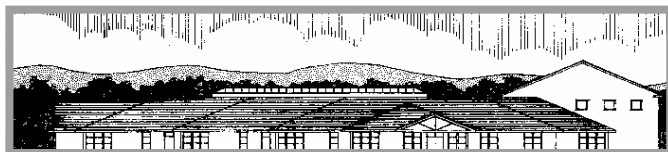
REMEMBERING THOSE WHO DIED
DURING THE PAST YEAR
AND HONORING THEIR CONTRI-
BUTIONS
TO OUR COMMUNITY

John A. Churchill
1930-2002

Clark A. Johnson
1947-2002

Ann F. Lovell 1945-
2002

Heath Elementary School News



By Susan Todd

Each time I sit down to write the Heath Elementary School report for the *Herald* I want to express gratitude to everyone in town for the enormous support you give our community school. As many of you may know, Commissioner David Driscoll visited the District in October. I believe he came away from Heath sensing the great pride everyone here feels in their school and in this place, and with an understanding of why the townspeople chose to provide an educational setting for their children. The town not only constructed this school; it has nurtured it over the years.

It is no wonder that Heath has been chosen an Environment as the Integrating Context for Learning school, one of five pilot schools named in the state of Massachusetts to develop a program that uses the natural and social environments as the integrating context for learning. This focus truly reflects the values that the town has imparted to its children, and we are well on our way toward implementing EIC principles throughout the school. Teachers, parents, and community members have been learning together and developing ideas for units that connect to the district and state frameworks with roots in the environment we share. In March we will begin to display the progress we've made in an interactive museum in the Open Space, and we invite you all to participate then and to give us inspiration along the way.

Another very important goal of ours this year is to revisit the original mission of the school. Heath Elementary was founded on very clear and strongly felt beliefs about how children should experience their education. We will discuss as a community how these beliefs are lived in the school today and how we have preserved these values as we have confronted the challenges and inevitable evolutions that have occurred here. We surely have much more that we need to accomplish, but there is so much that is happening at Heath that is the direct realization of the hopes and dreams of its founding visionaries. Please join us on Thursday, December 12, at 7 p.m. when there will be a Principal Forum devoted to a reflection on the school's progress as we enter our seventh year.

As the Commissioner was about to leave, I gave him a copy of Reinhold Niebuhr's "Serenity Prayer" that was left behind in our kitchen following his daughter's presentation here two weeks earlier. I told Dr. Driscoll that the prayer was written in Heath, and he took it with him. I hope he also took away the knowledge that this town lived that prayer in building this school. It had the courage to change the things that it should.



Heath Old Town House

This is the first in a series of articles the Herald will run at the request of the Historic District Study Committee on the historic architectural treasures of our town.

When the town of Heath was formed from the northern section of Charlemonnt in 1785, the Heath meeting house (also known as the Congregational church) was located on South Road. After incorporation, it was planned to move the meeting house/church building, which had been purchased from Charlemonnt, further north to a more central location in Heath. So, in 1787 the selectmen voted to buy one acre of land from Benjamin Maxwell "to set and build a meeting house on," thus establishing the boundaries for the town common at Heath Center. It took a year however for the meeting house on South Road to be disassembled and moved onto the town common sometime in 1788.

In 1833 the eleventh Constitutional Amendment dictated the separation of church and state in Massachusetts, thus the newly independent Congregational Church decided to put up a new building. Col. David Snow was selected to design the two town buildings now required. He built the Congregational church in 1833 on Main Street facing south. He built the New Town House in 1834 and placed it on the town common near the old meeting house site facing north. It was set in the extreme southeast corner of the acre lot that had been purchased from Benjamin Maxwell. It is said that some of the materials from the old church building that was demolished in 1833 were used in its construction. The New Town House was used for town meetings from 1835 until 1897.

In 1890 the Massachusetts legislature passed "An act to promote the establishment of free public libraries." By 1897 the town of Heath, with the help of donors such as Ellsworth Sawyer, had built a "library building" and named it Sawyer Hall. The town offices were moved from the Old Town House into Sawyer Hall and it has been used as a library and town hall ever since. In 1898 and 1899 there were proposals to sell the Old Town House, but it was finally leased by the town to the newly organized Heath Historical Society for 99 years in August 1901 after the Society had become incorporated.

In a booklet entitled *The Heath Historical Society* and dated October 1900 the following opening passages are found:

The Town of Heath, Franklin County, Massachusetts, at a legal meeting held the seventh day of November, 1899, voted to perpetually lease the "Old Town House" to a proposed historical society as soon as such society should be formed. The condition named in the vote was that such society should put and keep the building in good repair, and it should not be

used for any purpose foreign to the objects of the society.

In accordance with this generous and public spirited action of the town, the Heath Historical Society was organized on the eleventh of August 1900. Its object, as named in the constitution, is "the preservation of the Old Town House; the collection and safe keeping of any and all articles of historical interest connected with the town of Heath."

The Heath Historical Society's *Secretary's Record Book no. 0* gives this account of the founding (paraphrased):

The meeting was held at the Town Officer's Room and was called to order by Mr. D. E. Miller. Mr. Wm. Dickinson was chosen Chairman and Mamie E. Maxwell, Secretary. It was then voted to form a Historical Association. The constitution and bylaws were read and accepted article by article.

Next, the chair appointed Miss Mary A. White, Miss Laura Emerson and Mr. Sylvander Benson as a nominating committee. The following officers were thus elected:

President - Mr. Edward Payson Guild, Reading, Mass.

1st Vice Pres. - Mrs. Felicia Emerson Welch, Amherst, Mass.

2nd Vice Pres. - Mr. John Barber White, Kansas City, Mo.

Secretary - Miss Mamie Eunice Maxwell, Heath, Mass.

Treasurer Mr. Hugh Maxwell, Heath, Mass.

Executive Board - Mr. Wm. H. Burrington, Heath, Mass.

Mr. D. Edward Miller, Springfield, Mass.

Miss Flora Jane White, Concord, Mass.

Custodian - Mr. Henry Kirk Smith, Heath, Mass.

A vote was passed to accept the custody of the Town House in accordance with the vote of the last town meeting.

Pursuant to the admonition to "keep the building in good repair," a major restoration of the Old Town House was carried out between the years 1981-87. Electricity was installed in 1981. In 1985 asbestos shingles were removed from the east side of the building which had been installed as a fire wall over the original clapboards. In 1986 the entire building was jacked up, excavations were made in the perimeter, and new footings poured. Then the building was lowered onto the new foundation. In 1987 the interior was completely replastered, and the building was painted, inside and out. The plastering was done by Walter Lewandowski of South Deerfield who was an expert in the restoration of old houses. The building has been painted twice since then.

~ Pegge Howland

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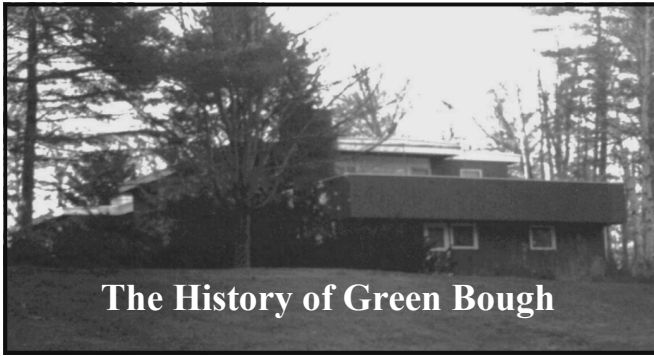
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*Aka High Rising Kennels, High Rising Farm, and
The Crowfoot Place*

51 Colrain Stage Road
Heath, Massachusetts 01346

A unique home just north of Heath Center commands the top of the Colrain Stage Road hill near the fairgrounds. Although it has been home to only a few residents, its place in Heath history is undeniably significant. The land was initially given to Elizabeth (Betty) Green by her aunt, Frances Nash Watson, and the house was completed in 1954; the architect was George Savage of Northeast Harbor, ME.

Following the occupancy of Betty and her husband Grant Green, Phyllis and Charles (Chuck) Kades leased it in 1966 after nearly a decade of partial vacancy. Upon returning from three months in Australia, the Kades family ultimately purchased it in October of 1967. The adjacent *Green Bough II* was completed by Phyllis Kades in 1999, and the original property was sold in August of 2001 to Robert and Pat McGahan from Chelmsford, MA.

One first sees the house from a long paved driveway wending its way north from Colrain Stage Road. The structure itself is rectangular in shape with a marvelous balcony overlooking the east wing. Sturdy and sound in appearance, it has withstood the worst winters Heath has to offer. A floral border graces the northeast lawn, and two garages provide shelter for equipment and vehicles. Shrubbery planted on the south side softens the landscape and provides respite for smaller plants. A large clump of birch trees, a pin oak, a red maple, and rhododendron on the north side compliment the landscape. The main doorway is quietly unobtrusive and balanced by tall trees, green sentries growing close to the house.

Natural cedar recently stained taupe adorns the exterior. There are two floors - the lower floor was ostensibly the dog kennel with dog runs, an office area, kitchen for the preparation of dog food, and a loading zone for shipping dog crates. In the kitchen and grooming room the dogs' menus were posted. It was also on the lower floor that a large generator was located. The main living floor stretches down a long tiled hallway ending with two main rooms, one of which contains a fireplace built in 1968; additionally there are four bedrooms, five baths, a kitchen and large deck.

The fascinating tale of a dog kennel and business partnership surrounds the home. It is indeed a tale of intrigue and mystery, shrouded in the accidental death of an owner and tangled in four simultaneous lawsuits. The story begins with the Watsons, and Betty's aunt, Frances Nash Watson, who gave Betty the land in

Heath. Frances was a renowned concert pianist, and her husband, Major General Edwin M. Watson, aka "Pa" Watson, was a military aide to President Roosevelt. It was Watson who traveled to Yalta with Roosevelt and died on a ship coming home with him.

Mrs. Watson was a brilliant pianist as reported in *The Evening Star*, Washington, D.C., January 9, 1936; the newspaper article states:

The secret of the fine sensitiveness in the playing of Frances Nash, brilliant pianist who will be the soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, was revealed when she volunteered the statement that she had learned more from artists of other instruments than from those of her own branch of music. She has studied with violinists, and at one time, with an oboist, who broadened her concept of music so that the delicate subtleties of the more expansive instruments found their way into her pianistic interpretations.

This unprecedented affirmation was made in the charming salon of her home in the Kennedy-Warren over which she presides as Mrs. Devin W. Watson, wife of Col. Watson, military aide of President Roosevelt. As expertly as she combines the two divergent interests of artist and socialite, one knows instinctively the artist is ever uppermost. Music is everywhere, the mound on the piano crowned by a treasured Christmas present of the Schabel edition of the Beethoven sonatas.

Interviewing Miss Nash (for it was the artist we came to see) is a charming experience. In her artistic studio, with countless valuable bibelots scattered about, one finds two superb faun-colored Angora cats gracefully challenging attention.

The pianistic art of Francis Nash has been acclaimed in Paris, Berlin, London, Rome, Milan, South America, as well as through her native land. In this country alone she has played repeatedly with all the famous orchestras, the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia, the Minneapolis, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, St. Louis, Kansas City, Milwaukee and the National Symphony.

Of her European experiences she tells of the remarkable enthusiasm of her reception in Italy, that land of singers, and of her pleasure at being able to play in several countries in the course of a week. During the period when her husband was assigned to the embassy in Berlin, she continued her concertizing begun after her European studies were finished and did as much as any other artist to attract attention to American talent.

"It is so seldom I have an opportunity to talk "shop" said Miss Nash, "and that is what I miss in my country. In Europe it is so easy to talk about music, for everyone is eager to discuss it. Sometimes people here politely bring up the subject when they know I am interested in it, but it is not the same thing."

As a child of 10 Miss Nash's precocity at the piano in her hometown of Omaha brought her into contact with one of those violinists who helped her in her musical education. With him she played all the violin literature, analyzing and working out every detail with minute care. A few years of study in Europe preceded her concert career, her success bringing her back again and again to the same countries. And she has thought deeply about her art. She feels that too much intimacy, the kind that comes from daily social round,

(*"The History of Green Bough"* continued on page 8)

("The History of Green Bough" continued from page 7)



is detrimental to that constant union with music which an artist must keep intact. And again, that never can one finish with the study of technique, for always there is something new to learn. In spite of her social duties, Miss Nash devotes several hours each day to uninterrupted practice, beginning her day with the playing of Bach.

It should be noted that Miss Nash had a piano delivered to the barn, the foundation of which still exists across from the small white Crofoot Place, just below the existing property, and it was there that she played and practiced the piano with great enthusiasm every summer. The Crofoot place has since been taken down. It was there in the Crofoot house that Betty and Grant Green lived for approximately two years while their house was being constructed.

Betty Green and her husband came to Heath in 1951. Betty's former schoolmate, Dorothy McConville, was interested in a partnership and had the financial capacity to introduce the dog kennel business to the Greens. Dorothy, a divorcee, is credited with introducing Norwich terriers to the United States, and High Rising Kennels (aka High Rising Farm) became the headquarters for breeding and shipping them all across the country. The dogs had the run of the house, even though there were kennels for them on the lower first floor. Testimony to the appetite of the little terriers were the wooden slat blinds chewed ferociously on the bottom by the dogs.

A falling-out or disagreement between Dorothy and Betty over the dog business resulted in a quadruple lawsuit - *the Greens vs Tree Plateau Corporation and Dorothy McConville*. The Greens operated the kennel for a short while after Dorothy pulled out of the business. It is interesting to note that despite the court proceedings, Dorothy and Betty still remained friendly and exchanged birthday cards.

After the litigation, an accident took the life of Betty Green in their snowy driveway during one of Heath's severe winters. She had been to the aid of an elderly neighbor, Dr. Helen Hosmer, on nearby Hosmer Road (aka Fort Shirley Road) to pull her out of a

ditch with the tractor. Upon Betty's return an unfortunate occurrence in the driveway of their home caused the loose belt of her coat to be caught in the tread of the tractor and she was flipped back into the path of the tractor which was in reverse.

Grant Green, Betty's husband, lived in the house for the next decade after her death, but journeyed to Charlottesville, VA, to visit her sister during the winter. Grant still kept some of the dogs, but after Betty's death he no longer bred them.

When the house was purchased by Chuck and Phyllis Kades in 1967, Chuck named it *Green Bough*, which is Greek for Phyllis. Few changes were made to the original house. A new roof was needed. The fireplace was added, and the bench was extended along the wall for Chuck's cozy corner. There were ornate, serrated plywood ceilings throughout the main floor, which were original to the house.

Chuck and Phyllis created many happy memories of their own while living in the house, entertaining diplomats, overseas guests and Chuck's colleagues from Japan with great regularity, as Chuck was the writer of Article 9, the no war clause in the Japanese constitution, while stationed in Japan with General MacArthur. Among the many guests were Jean Faircloth MacArthur, widow of General MacArthur, who visited twice, and many contingents of Japanese film crews replete with cameras and interviewers. Roger Baldwin, founder of the American Civil Liberties Union, was also twice a weekend guest as well.



Chuck's extraordinary career brought them ultimately to the quiet community of Heath. As a lawyer in New York City he had come across the impending sale of this isolated Heath property, and intrigued by faraway places, Chuck drove to Heath to investigate.

The house remains intact with only the memories of the dog kennel business embedded in the silent walls. Chuck and Phyllis closed off the kennels and removed the dog runs, leaving the enormous generator in the basement to get

through the long Heath winters. No longer are the tents of the Green family on the lawn to introduce guests to the new breed of terrier. Although it once housed marvelous dog kennels and a successful business, the Heath home served the Kades family's needs very nicely, including their extended overseas family. The wonderful summer parties held on the balcony are pleasant memories for many Heath residents. This venerable old home is an historic landmark not only for its important place in the history of the town, but for its many noted inhabitants and famous guests.

*~ Compiled by Sue Silvester
as related to her by Phyllis Kades
November 2002*

The North Heath Oak Tree

Joyce Kilmer once wrote that "Poems are made by fools like me, but only God can make a tree." As I travel around parts of this country, I am struck with the truth that Kilmer so well stated about trees. No matter where one travels, either the abundance of or lack of trees is evident. In the Far West the giant evergreens are awesome to behold. In the heartland of the Mid West the only trees are the few in hedgerows and around houses and farmsteads. In the more sunny climates of the South, pecan trees and palm trees are some of the shaded blessings God has provided for us mortals. I would like to tell you about a way that I unknowingly changed the tree population in a small way in Heath.

In 1951, with a lot of help from my Dad and brother Ken, as well as good Heath neighbors, my family and I moved into a new cottage on the property now owned by the Lemelins on what used to be called Ben Road. On the northern end of the property, on the part of the field that is now the Boudreau home, I started to clean the brush and weeds that were slowly taking over the open fields. As I continued to cut down the old dead apple trees that had overgrown parts of the field, I noticed an old scrub apple tree that had a different type of tree that was sprouting up at its base along with the familiar ash, maples, and poplar. Taking care not to cut it in my zeal to get the job done, I discovered to my surprise that it was a shoot of a small oak tree growing very innocently in the most unexpected spot of North Heath of all places. I neatly cleared all the other sprouts around it and left it alone and undisturbed in its habitat. As I had never seen an oak tree in that part of town, I began to inquire to see if other oak trees had ever been seen in the area. On the Adamsville road from about the Crowningshield farm to the Colrain line there are lots of oaks. On Number Nine there are oak trees. In East Heath, South Heath, on Avery road, and going down to Dell as well as on Burnt Hill, oaks are numerous. However, to the best of my knowledge, no oaks have ever been seen in that part of Heath.

Being of an inquiring mind, I was puzzled about this small phenomenon. To this day, the only explanation that I can come up with is that of difficulty of seed dispersal. Maple and ash have little winged seeds that scatter very easily when they are ripe and the wind carries them hither and yon. Birds eat cherry, alder, and seeds from other trees, and in the normalcy of dropping feces, these tree seeds are dispersed nicely. Even beechnuts are carried by chipmunks and squirrels to new surroundings. Acorns, however, are heavy and slippery and are not easily transported by birds or squirrels. Thus the mystery of the only Oak Tree in North Heath is still



that, a mystery.

As you pass the Boudreau home on your way to or from Heath center, take a look at the only oak tree in North Heath. It is about 18 inches in diameter, and it has such a beautiful spread of branches that I am proud of saving it for others to enjoy.

~ Doug Stetson

Heath Historical Society

"God give us the grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other."

Reinhold Niebuhr

At the Historical Society's Annual Meeting on September 28, Elizabeth Sifton, daughter of the author of 'The Serenity Prayer,' gave an excellent presentation entitled "The Serenity Prayer Revisited." Reinhold Niebuhr, distinguished theologian and author, wrote and first used the prayer in Heath.

The meeting was well attended by over 75 people, some of whom know Ms Sifton because she spent summers with her parents here during her childhood. This was her first time back in Heath in 40 years.

The Community Hall Committee provided us with a delicious dinner, and Dave Gott serenaded the diners with his banjo. Special thanks to the Howlands, Eileen Tougas, and Val Kaempfer for this special evening

Election of officers resulted in retaining Jack Cable as president, Eileen Tougas, vice president, and Jane deLeeuw, director.

We had an excellent turnout at the Solomon Temple Barn during the Fair. Raffle and book sales were brisk. Attendance seemed to be up as young and old reviewed our collection. The scything and sawing events drew attention to our heritage.

Because of the generosity of the Dickinson Family Fund we were able to have the Center Schoolhouse Museum painted, and we finally finished the first phase of preserving Fort Shirley by completing a pathway to the fort site and Anna Norton's grave.

I would like to thank my officers and board for an excellent year, especially Ned Wolf, Dave Howland, and Eileen Tougas who went "beyond the call."

~ Jack Cable,
President, Heath Historical Society



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Milestones

Born September 21, 2002, a son, **Gavin Mills**, to Brooks McCutchen and Janis Steele of Heath; grandson of Leighton and Martha McCutchen of Heath, and Shirley Steele of Montreal, Canada.

Born November 10, 2002, a son, **Austin Joseph**, to Jessica Bysiewski and Joseph Thane of Charlemont; grandson of Beth and Leigh Wright of Deerfield and Phyllis and David Thane of Heath; great-grandson of Martha Messier of Deerfield, Doug and Alli Thane-Stetson of Heath, and Stella Amodio of Holyoke.

Born November 19, a daughter **Sienna Elizabeth**, to Samantha White and John M. Boyle of Heath; granddaughter of Cynthia and Anthony White of Winchester, NH.

James Brian Rode, son of Robert and Dianne Rode of Heath, and **Marisa Francesca Dalmaso**, daughter of John and Bobbi Dalmaso of Boring, OR, were married September 21, 2002. The couple reside in Turners Falls.

Joseph R. Sonntag, son of Raymond and Mary Sonntag of Shelburne, and **Angela G. Almeida**, daughter of Joseph and the late Judith Almeida of Heath, were married September 14, 2002. The couple reside in Shelburne.

David Muenkel, son of Edward and Mary Muenkel of Heath, and **Jamie Sullivan** daughter of Robert Sullivan of Worcester and Lynn Hart Sullivan of Wilmington, VT, were married September 27, 2002. The couple reside in Heath.



Brenda Lee Terrill Lackey of Montpelier, ID, formerly of Colrain, died October 10, 2002. Born in Montague September 1, 1962, she was the daughter of Donald and Bernadette Rabideau Terrill Champagn.

Ms. Lackey attended Colrain Elementary School, Mohawk Regional High School, and Franklin County Technical School.

She is survived by her father of Colrain and her mother of Montpelier; a son, William L. Hosmer of Clayburn, TX, and a daughter, Nicole M. Glen, of Blackfoot, ID, a sister, Betty Fisher of Turners Falls; two half brothers, Gary Deuso of Montpelier and Michael Deuso of Turners Falls; four half sisters, **Jennifer Williams** of Heath, Diana Terrill of Buckland, Samantha Terrill of Colrain, and Sarah Terrill of Pittsfield; her stepmother, Catherine Terrill of Colrain; a stepson, David Lackey, and a stepdaughter, Amanda Lackey, both of Wardsboro, VT, and two grandchildren. She also leaves her companion, Nick Marriott, of Montpelier.

Interment is in the West Branch Cemetery, Colrain.

A. Virginia McIntosh Berry Peters, formerly of Athol, died November 12, 2002, in South Deerfield. Born in Athol, March 6, 1921, she was the daughter of Raymond and Helen Fisher McIntosh.

A resident of Athol most of her life, she was a graduate of Athol High School, and, as a licensed practical nurse, was employed for several years at Athol Memorial Hospital.

Her first husband, William R. Berry, died in 1970. Her husband of 28 years, George A. Peters, died in 2000. She is survived

by her daughter, Mary Ann Brill, of Kingman, AZ; three stepsons, Gary Peters of South Deerfield, **Dennis Peters** of Heath, and Lawrence Peters of Colstrip, MT; two stepdaughters, Laurie Naprovnik of Dearborn, MO, and Debra Peters of Columbia, MD; four grandchildren, and eight stepgrandchildren.

Interment is in the Silver Lake Cemetery, Athol.

Heath Deed Transfers

Paul H. and Sandra Y. Baker of Wahiawa, HI, to Daniel L. and Christine Tougas of Chicopee, Flagg Hill Road, Lots 13 to 17. \$3,250.

Harry I. Baldino of Hempstead, NY, to Janet L. Farquhar of Colrain, 25 Jacksonville Road. \$63,000.

John H. Cable of Chester, VT, to Peter E. and Susan A. Schriber of Hatfield, 118 Flagg Hill Road, also known as Burnt Hill Road. \$379,000.

Steven R. and Debra A. Crowningshield of Rowe, to Joan E. Schoenhals of Watertown, 25 Groll Road. \$187,000.

Loren A. and Dorothy Densmore of Chicopee, to Ronald Champagne of Agawam, 15-16 Chippewa Drive. \$5,000.

Helen M. Eyre of Newburgh, NY, to Joseph M. Gingras of Springfield, 4 Waterfall Drive. \$8,000.

Paul and Joan Fournier of Terryville, CT, to Frank L. Barker, Caleb J. Snow, and Seth T. Snow, 59 Waterfall Drive. \$97,500.

Franklin Land Trust Inc. of Ashfield to David Freeman and Christine O'Brien, Route 8A. \$6,300.

Martin Gold of Brandon, VT, to Amos J. Cavallo of Amherst, 15 Rowe Road. \$27,500.

Joseph F. Jr. and Deloris J. Grochmal of Springfield, to Kenneth M. and Lorraine G. Bishop of Suffield, CT, Wigwam Drive. \$3,000.

Richard W. Hines of Avon, CT, William C. Hines of Wenham, and Jennifer A. Sullivan of North Reading, to Jeffrey S. and Marsha J. Buchiane of Arlington, VT, Brunelle Road and Bolton Road, 4 pcls. \$36,000.

Irene P. Kovalcek Estate of Manchester, CT, Francis A. Minter of Hartford, administrator, to Gary R. and Cynthia Beaudoin of West Suffield, Mohawk Estates, two lots. \$2,500.

Garry Lamothe of Easthampton, to Patricia Walker of Chicopee, Apache Drive, Lots 11 and 12. \$15,000.

Garry Lamothe of Easthampton, to Patricia Walker of Chicopee, Apache Drive, Lot 10. \$10,000.

Rene M. Laviolette of Westfield, to Suzanne E. Jackman, 18 Shawnee Drive, Lots 5 and 18. \$14,000.

Robert H. and Sheryl J. Lavoie of Ludlow, to Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association Inc., Sherman Drive, Lot 35. \$1.

Carolyn S. Litchfield of Heath, to Kendall D. Litchfield of Heath, 5 Jacksonville Stage Road. \$1.

Kendall D. Litchfield, of Heath to Tucker Litchfield and Kendall D. Litchfield of Heath, 5 Jacksonville Stage Road. \$1.

Kendall D. Litchfield of Heath to Tucker Litchfield, 5 Jacksonville Stage Road. \$1.

Regina M. Martin, Raymond J. Martin, George H. Martin, Patricia A. Martin, Francis J. Amellin, and Mary Y. Amellin of Springfield, to Debora N. Cavalier and Dennis J. Hanken of Bristol, CT, 11 Shawnee Drive. \$12,000.

("Deed Transfers" continued on page 11)

("Deed Transfers" continued from page 10)

Leslie McDonough of Shelburne Falls, to Jacob I. Dolinger of Montague, 31 Flagg Hill Road. \$102,500.

Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association Inc. to Steve and Laura Labone of Hadley, Cascade Drive, Lot 7. \$2,400.

John Monks Jr. of Springfield, to John J. Doherty Jr. of Revere, 14 Mohawk Beach Drive. \$47,000.

Geraldine M. O'Connor of Westfield, to Eleanor Willette of Espon, NH, and Mark A. Willette of Warren, 16 Westbrook Drive. \$1.

Peck Realty LLP of Westfield, by partner, Stuart F. Young, Jr. and John I. Simpson, Jr. partners, to Peter E. Schriber of Hatfield, 3 Flagg Hill Road. \$175,000.

Peter P. and Donna M. Pierzchala of Greenfield, to Richard A. Brown, Jr. of Bondsville, Mohawk Estates Lot 4. \$5,000.

Mark B. Robel of Dorchester, to Lilin Tseng of Ashfield, 173 Route 8A. \$141,000.

Sanford Roth Declaration of Trust, Chicago, IL, Sanford Roth, Trustee, to Hull Forestlands, L.P. of Pomfret Center, CT, Route 8A, 100 acres. \$38,500.

James W. and Lucille A. Roule of Holyoke, to Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association Inc., Mohawk Estates, Lots 17-18. \$1.

Constance Salois of Chicopee, to Donna Marie Salois of Chicopee, Mohawk Estates, Lots 2, 4, and 6. \$1.

Ernest Donat Salois Estate of Hampden County, Donna Marie Salois, executor, to Constance Salois of Chicopee, Mohawk Estates, Lot 4. No consideration.

William N. and Ann L. Shaw, to David and Theresa Vanderpoel of Northampton, 45 Rowe Road. \$78,000.

Kenneth D. Thane of Heath to Eric Grinnell of Heath, 118 Brunelle Road. \$1.



News from YOUR Fire Department...

Since our last article, more new people than this writer can remember have joined the Heath Fire department. We're up to about 20 folks on the roster right now. It's really gratifying to see so many new - and young - faces showing an interest. The old meeting room can get pretty crowded on a Thursday night these days, but don't think that there isn't room for YOU. We continue to meet the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.. Hope to see more of you there.

In October, several of us spent two half days at the Heath Elementary School as part of Fire Prevention Week. Even though many of the children and teachers have seen us year after year, they always to seem to enjoy our visits, and we certainly like to show them our gear and equipment, and talk fire prevention to an avid audience.

We were visited in November by representatives from two fire truck manufacturers, who were showing us possible options as we fine-tune specs for putting a new attack truck out to bid. We learned this month that, for the second year in a row, we were not awarded one of the FEMA fire grants towards a new truck. Ap-

parently, there are departments throughout the country that the government feels are needier than we are.

Designing a truck has been an interesting challenge. Chief Smith and several members have put quite a few hours into the process. We are trying to balance all the bells and whistles that we'd like against the necessities that we need, and that the town can afford, to come up with a truck that will serve us now and for at least the next 15 years. It's also getting difficult to find a truck that will fit in our current station! So much to do and so little money - but I guess we're not the only group in town feeling the pinch.

We ended the month with our annual firefighters' dinner, where we get to socialize with each other and actually talk about things other than fires. A good time was had by all.

It's been a fairly quiet and event-free winter, so far. Let's all do what we can to keep it that way. Drive with caution on winter roads; if you're heating with wood keep your eye on creosote buildup; be careful with candles during power outages, and never go near downed wires.

~ Richards Steinbock

Excerpts from the Farmer's Alma-

December

The year ends with uncommon splendor. Venus has a superb, don't-miss conjunction with the crescent Moon and Mars on the 1st, an awesome predawn coming-together of our three nearest cosmic neighbors. Simply dazzling, Venus achieves its greatest brilliancy on the 6th and floats near dim Mars all month. The Geminid meteor shower, this year's richest, peaks on the 13th and 14th. A gibbous Moon will diminish the show for those unwilling to wait until the Moon sets around 2:00 a.m. Saturn is out all night and reaches an extraordinary opposition on the 17th, high up and at its brightest since 1973. Winter arrives with the solstice on the 21st. Jupiter is brilliant and rises by 8:00 p.m. on the 23rd.

o New Moon	December 4
) First quarter	December 11
• Full Moon	December 19
(Last Quarter	December 26

January 2003

The year opens with Venus already blazing at its highest and brightest of 2003. This predawn lighthouse floats to the left of dim orange Mars all month and is readily seen hovering above mercury after the 20th. Meanwhile, Saturn, in Taurus on the 9th, is nicely up in the east at nightfall, at its brightest of the entire year (magnitude - 0.5) and telescopically wondrous throughout the night. Jupiter, in Cancer, is dazzling as it rises by 8:00 p.m. and dominates the sky most of the night throughout the month. The moon meets Saturn on the 15th and Jupiter on the 19th. Earth's closest Sun-approach (perihelion) is at midnight, January 3-4.

o New Moon	January 2
) First quarter	January 10
• Full Moon	January 18
(Last Quarter	January 25

The Legend of Evergreens

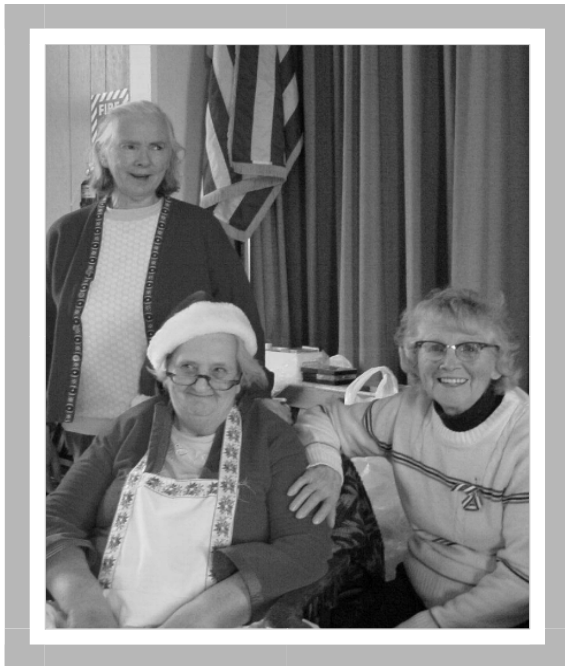
"When the plants and trees were first created, the Great Mystery gave a gift to each species, but set up a contest to determine which gift would be most useful to whom.

"I want you to stay awake and keep watch over the earth for seven nights," said the Great Mystery. The young trees and plants were so excited to be entrusted with such an important job that they did not find it difficult at all to stay awake the first night. However, the second night was not so easy and a little while before dawn, a few fell asleep.

By the time the seventh night came only the cedar, the pine, the spruce, the fir, the laurel, and the holly were still awake. "What wonderful endurance you have," exclaimed the Great Mystery. "You shall be given the gift of remaining green forever. You will be the guardians of the forest. Even in the seeming dead of winter, your brother and sister creatures will find life and shelter in the protection of your branches." Ever since that time all the trees and plants lose their leaves and sleep all winter while the evergreens stay awake."

~ From Ancient sagas of the Cherokee people

Mrs. Claus and Her Elves



Mrs. Claus (Claire Hatch), is surrounded by her assistants Dolly Churchill (standing) and Grace Crowningshield (far right) at the Christmas Bazaar and Craft Show held at the Community Hall on October 2.

My Favorite Tree

Each Christmas I find myself reflecting more and more on the beauty of my Christmas tree and how over the years it has seemingly turned into a veritable time capsule containing the story of my life.

As a young child, I remember the excitement I felt when my father and mother would gather my sister and I together to go out to find the perfect tree. Once the tree was chosen we would return home where my father usually had to make a few necessary adjustments to our "perfect tree" with his trusty saw and hatchet before he could set it in the stand.

I remember the fun we had decorating the tree. My father would string up the lights and then it was up to us girls to place the delicate balls, garlands, and tinsel. When the decorations were complete, my father would have the honor of placing the beautiful angel atop the tree.

Back then, Christmas wasn't Christmas without midnight Mass, French Meat Pies, and plenty of good food to eat. There were always large family gatherings with aunts, uncles, and cousins to celebrate the holiday. At these gatherings my grandfather would say a prayer of blessing over all his sons and their families.

Many years have passed since my childhood and with their passing, countless wonderful new memories have accumulated. Memories of the very first Christmas my husband and I enjoyed together as a newly married couple and then the joyous Christmases after our children were born.

The ornaments that decorate my tree all have a special meaning in my heart regardless of whether they were purchased, handmade, given as a gift, or handed down from family members. As I place each ornament on the tree I am reminded of people who touched my life, and in many ways, helped shape me into the person I am today.

A good many things have changed over the years. While many of the old family traditions I grew up with have been replaced by new ones, the one thing that remains steadfast and strong is my Christmas tree.

The moment the lights are turned on the magic begins. From the beautiful angel standing her guard high above the treetop straight down to the skirt that surrounds the base, I am taken on a sentimental journey and flooded with warm memories that comfort and sustain me throughout the year.

~ Eileen Tougas



Things You Probably Didn't Know About Christmas

*Christmas was outlawed in England by the Puritans under Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658) who thought of it as a "heathen celebration." It was illegal to celebrate the holiday until the British monarchy was restored in 1660.

*Christmas was also outlawed by the Puritans of New England. The following law was passed in Massachusetts in 1659: "Whoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas and the like, either by forbearing labor, feasting or any other way, shall pay for any such offense five shillings as a fine to the country." The law remained on the books for 22 years, and Christmas wasn't made a legal holiday in Massachusetts until just before the Civil War.

* The custom of sending Christmas cards began in 1843 when a wealthy Englishman, Sir Henry Cole, ran out of time to write personal letters to his friends at Christmas. He commissioned an artist, John Calcott Horsley, to design a card instead. Horsley drew a picture of a group of merry-wishers raising their glasses in toast. Underneath were the words, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You." The card created much controversy, as critics complained it encouraged holiday drinking. But the custom of sending cards at Christmas caught on nonetheless.

*The Poinsettia is a Christmas tradition harkening from Mexico. According to legend, a boy named Pablo was headed to his village church to see its nativity scene. Realizing he had no gift for the Christ Child, he hurriedly gathered some branches and weeds from the roadside. When he laid them before the manger, the other children laughed at him. But suddenly there appeared on each branch the brilliant, star-shaped flower of the Poinsettia.

*Candy canes were reportedly developed by a Christian candymaker in Indiana who built the story of Christmas into each piece. The hardness of the candy represents the solid rock of the Christian faith. The white represents the sinlessness of Christ, and the red stripes symbolize the bloody wounds caused by his flogging. The shape of the candy is that of a shepherd's staff, representing Christ as our Good Shepherd. Turned upside down, it forms the letter J for Jesus.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Many historians believe the well-known song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, is actually a Christian hymn in disguise. During the reign of England's Queen Elizabeth I, a staunch Protestant, English Catholics were oppressed and persecuted. Priests met secretly with small groups of Catholics, risking their lives to conduct worship and observe the Mass.

Under such circumstances, it was difficult to train or catechize Catholic children. But an unknown, clever priest found a unique way of teaching the Gospel to children, using the theme of the twelve days between Christmas and Epiphany, when the Wise Men, according to tradition, arrived with their gifts for the Christ Child.

The priest hid biblical truth in the symbols he used in his carol, beginning with the words "On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me" The "true love" referred to God the Father, and the "me" represented the Christian who received the gifts. The "partridge in a pear tree" is Jesus. Why a partridge? Mother partridges are known for feigning injury to decoy predators from their babies. The children were thereby taught about Christ's sacrifice on our behalf.

The two turtledoves represented the Old and New Testaments. The three French hens symbolized faith, hope, and love - the three great virtues we should display as we come to know Christ as Lord and read the Old and New Testaments. The other symbols:

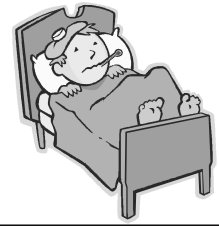
- *Four calling birds -the four Gospels.
- *Five golden rings - the first five books of the Bible, The Pentateuch
- *Six geese a-laying - the six days of creation.
- *Seven swans a-swimming - the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
- *Eight maids a-milking - the eight Beatitudes of Matthew 5.
- *Nine ladies dancing - nine choirs of angels.
- *Ten lords a-leaping - the Ten Commandments.
- *Eleven pipers piping - the eleven faithful apostles.
- *Twelve drummers drumming - the twelve articles of the Apostles' Creed.

Submitted by Nancy Burrington





Is it the Common Cold or Influenza?



By Joanne Fortune, RN

If a cold lasts more than four to seven days, we might confuse it with the flu. Here is a list defining symptoms.

Symptoms	Cold	Flu
Sore throat	Often	Sometimes
Runny nose	Often	Sometimes
Sneezing	Often	Sometimes
Cough	Mild and hacking	Usual and can become severe
Tiredness and weakness	Mild	Can last two or more weeks
Muscle aches	Mild	Usual and often severe
Headache	Rare	Sudden onset and can be severe
Fever	Rare in adults and older children but can be as high as 102 in infants and small children	Usually 102 but can go up to 104 and usually last three to four days
Extreme exhaustion	Never	Sudden onset and can be severe

If you experience symptoms of a cold, remember to drink at least eight daily glasses of water, get plenty of rest, and try to stay warm. Some supplements that may be helpful in alleviating the symptoms are Vitamin C (1000 mg. three times a day for adults), Echinacea (10 drops of tincture in juice three times a day), garlic capsules, and Zinc lozenges. Mint tea can be helpful to alleviate an irritating tickling cough. To ease the pressure of sinusitis, try inhaling steam from a pot of boiling water while covering your head with a towel for five minutes twice daily. Hot tea or lemon juice with honey and an eighth teaspoon of cayenne pepper can also be helpful for sinusitis.

Heath Union Church News

The work in the Church's Building Project continues. The progress has been slow but steady. As of this date, the radiant heat in the concrete floor has been turned on and is keeping perfect temperatures. The last few weeks the outside work getting the clapboards repaired and replaced and painted on both the east and west sides of the building has been the focal point. A great amount of electrical work also has been done and there is now a telephone installed. The number is 337-4019.

For anyone wanting to join in the work bees, they are Thursday nights 7-9 p.m. and Saturday mornings 8 a.m. to 12 noon. For all others, please feel free to stop in and see how the project looks.

The Church has two bible studies going on each week. One is the Ladies Bible Study that meets every Tuesday morning at the Parsonage, and the other, for anyone interested, meets every Wednesday evening from 7 p.m. to whatever time we finish coffee.

The Youth Group meets 3-5 p.m. on Sundays at the Halifax Church. Please bring a snack if you plan to attend.

There is a donation container in the entry of the Church for food items for the Good Neighbors. These should be canned or nonperishable items. There is a great need to help out our neighbors so no one goes without.

On November 8 at 7 a.m. the Men's Breakfast was held at Paul Burrington's. Six men attended and all had their fill and a good time visiting. The next Breakfast will be in January on a date to be announced later.

The Church is hoping to have a Potluck Supper and Game Night sometime in the next few weeks. No date has been set, but we will be sure to post it for everyone who would like to attend. We always have a good time.

If you are interested in any of the events mentioned and would like more details, please call Pastor Dave or his wife June. They are always glad to visit and give out any information. And please feel free to attend our service on Sunday morning starting at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us. Give us a chance to welcome you.

Someone once said: "The Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone that isn't."

~ Nancy Burrington

Maple House



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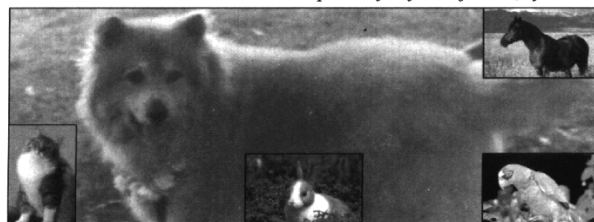
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Fred Burrington
Artist
337-4302

**Cable's Burnt Hill
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337-4705

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337-5716

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Indigo Glassworks
337-5375

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Planning and Design Grant Update



By Charlene Churchill

I would like to give the *Herald* readers an update on the progress being made on the Planning and Design Grant our library received from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). The purpose of this grant is to determine the space needs for our library for the next twenty years, identify possible solutions to these needs, and employ an architect to produce schematic designs for the needed library space.

In August 2002 the Board of Trustees contracted with Sondra (Sunny) Vandermark of Vandermark Consulting in Framingham, MA, to complete the Building Program portion of the grant. Sunny visited Heath in early October and met with the Trustees and library staff, toured the library and the rest of Sawyer Hall, asked questions, took pictures, and listened. She has prepared a draft document which we have reviewed and commented on. We will soon have a final document for the Trustees to approve that will then be submitted to the state.

We now have to begin the next steps in the grant process which are to identify potential sites for a new library and community center building and to develop a Request For Proposal outlining the tasks the architect will have to complete. Some of these tasks will be to evaluate Sawyer Hall for library use of the entire building and evaluation of other sites.

The State Legislature, as part of the capital budget, recently approved a \$75 million bond bill for matching funds for library construction and renovation. The first nineteen projects on the waiting list were approved for release of construction funding at the November meeting of the MBLC.

The State will fund 60% of the first \$1.2 million of eligible construction costs and 50% of the next \$1.8 million of eligible costs. Our matching funds will have to come from individual and corporate donations, foundation grants, and/or town appropriation.

We have a difficult road ahead in deciding on a direction for our library which allows it to serve our community well into the future.

The new adult fiction books include: *Chasing The Dime* by Michael Connelly, *The Crimson Petal and the White* by Michel Faber, *Murder Book* by Jonathan Kellerman, *No One To Trust* by Iris Johansen, *The Big Dig* by Linda Barnes, *A Parchment of Leaves* by Silas House, *Q Is For Quarry* by Sue Grafton, and *The Sniper's Wife* by Archer Mayor.

New adult nonfiction books are: *The Belles of New England* by William Moran, *Larry Burrows Vietnam* by Larry Burrows, *Something To Declare - Essays on France* by Julian Barnes, and *Cape May Courthouse* by Lawrence Schiller.

Additions to the juvenile/young adult fiction area are: *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen, *Stravaganza City of Masks* by Mary Hoffman, *Girl In A Cage* by Jane Yolen, and *Keeper of the Doves* by Betsy Byars.

HEATH EMERGENCY SERVICES NEWS

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

09/11/02 - 8A South - Medical - fall from roof
09/22/02 - Town Farm Rd. - Medical
09/24/02 - Navajo Lane - Medical
09/28/02 - Rt. 8A South - Medical
10/13/02 - Rt. 8A North - Motorcycle Accident
10/14/02 - Moduc Street - Medical
10/22/02 - Jacobs Rd. - Medical
10/26/02 - Lake View Drive - Medical - ATV accident
11/04/02 - Rt. 8A North - Motor Vehicle Accident
11/06/02 - Number Nine Rd. - Medical

The Department wishes everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday season.

~ Timothy Lively - EMT



Heath Weather

Precipitation

June	10.01"	
July	2.56"	
August	4.95"	
September	3.40"	<u>Snow</u>
October	5.07"	4"
Nov. 1-12	13.5"	8"

Thanks to thunderstorms, our precipitation has been closer to normal than in many nearby communities.

~ Alan Nichols

SELECTBOARD'S REPORT

The Selectboard meets every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall

Community Hall

On the House Builders has completed the work of repairing the roof trusses and other structural repairs to the roof framing. The building has been reopened for use by the community. Senior lunches will resume in the lower level. The Selectboard expressed appreciation to Bruce VanInderstine and his workers for their prompt and conscientious response to our repair project.

The CDBG Grant application was completed in September and submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for their review. We should receive notification about its approval around the first of the year. The grant will fund most of the cost of the needed renovations and repairs for the establishment of a Senior Center in the building. The balance of the repairs will be funded by money that was voted for that purpose at a Special Town Meeting last summer.

Sawyer Hall

Architects Inc. of Northampton was selected by the building committee to design the elevator addition for Sawyer Hall. A kickoff meeting was held to review the architect's project schedule and the progress of the design work to date. It is expected that the project will be bid this winter and construction started this spring. The elevator addition and related accessibility improvements are being funded by a CDBG Grant that was approved last winter. Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority will be administering the grant and following the design, bidding, and construction phases of the project.

Local Emergency Committee - (LEC)

The Selectboard has been looking into establishing a Local Emergency Committee for the town. All municipalities in the state have been encouraged by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Authority (MEMA) to form these committees in response to the 9/11 disaster. The charge of the committee will be developing procedures and locating resources for dealing with local emergencies. Bob Tanner, Richards Steinbock, Mike Smith, and Lorin Gowdy will be working on this issue and advising the board.

New Highway Department Truck

The town has taken delivery of a new International dump truck with a plow frame and sander just in time for the winter season. This vehicle will replace the 1991 truck.

Fire Department

The Fire Department has been asked to look into needed upgrades and repairs for its equipment. The main attack en-

gine has been experiencing problems for some time now and needs to be rebuilt or replaced. Other equipment is very old and in need of repair or replacement. The Fire Department will be making recommendations to the Selectboard.

Heath On-line

Take some time to visit the town's home page www.townofheath.org. You'll find Selectboard meeting minutes, school information, and much more. The home page is a work in progress. Thanks to the computer committee for getting this project up and running. Contact the Selectboard at BOS@townofheath.org. Send messages to any board or individual via the E-mail address, or visit the Heath home page.

~ Heath Selectboard
Thomas Lively - Chair
Brian DeVriese
Hilma Sumner

Historic District Study Committee

As described in the Massachusetts Historical Commission Planning Manual, local historic commissions are an agent of our local government and the "most important goal is preservation of the community's historic places." This includes identification, evaluation, and protection of the community's historic resources.

This past year, in cooperation with the Local Historic District Study Committee, we have focused on research and documentation of the buildings surrounding the Common, and have recently expanded our research to include all of Heath Center as described in the 1989 bylaw. Roughly half of this inventory has been completed to date. We will continue to work in the coming year and hope to become active participants in local planning by working with other local agents. These might logically include the Selectboard, the Planning Board, the Arts Council, the school, and the library.

We share common goals with the Heath Historical Society, and we welcome participation by all Heath citizens. Please call any member of the Commission if you wish to help with the documentation of the history of any property in Heath that is at least fifty years old and has contributed to Heath history either by its architectural style and/or its inhabitants.

We continue to pursue National Landmark designation for Heath Center and for other buildings.

Respectfully submitted,
Delores Viarengo, Chair
Donald Freeman
Margaret Howland
Jane de Leeuw



Green Thoughts

by
ELSA BAKALAR

"It seems like only yesterday that gardeners were shaking their heads and puzzling over what a strange spring we were having, and now here we are shaking our heads again and puzzling over a strange fall."

I found this comment in my 1992 diary, and realized I had used it in an opening sentence for *Green Thoughts*, then another sentence caught my eye: "What do you know - snow, on Nov. 17th and heavy snow at that, in the hill towns."

Now there's a strange coincidence-are we in for a 10-year repeat, right down to the snow date? I suppose it shows the value or usefulness at least of keeping a garden diary. I have been given many beautiful, ornamental garden journals, and I see that in most years there's a flurry of writing for the first few weeks and then - silence. Of course, those first few weeks are in winter, with plenty of time to note the smallest occurrences. Comes the spring and the gardener is off and running, and the journal sinks under a pile of catalogs that may, with luck, surface by the next year (but with the wrong prices!)

You may not feel the way I do, but by this time of year I'm tired of being told what to do, or not do, in my garden. From every garden columnist (our own Pat Leuchtman always excepted) the exhortations come thick and fast: "Do this, do that....Pruning now is a mistake....Don't let weeds winter over....Time to get a head start on next year's garden....and so on, and on.

I don't think I want to get a head start on anything just now. It's November, as I write, and I'm not listening. I'm daydreaming. Already I can see next year's garden. It's in my mind's eye, where all the most ravishing gardens may be found.

Once the clocks are turned back the days are really short.

A child I know summed it up best: "It gets late earlier," he said. How true.

The woodlands begin to look like winter, and there's a years-end look to many even well-tended gardens. A few shrubs and stout woody plants may still stand after the assaults of sudden freeze, high wind, and unexpectedly early snow. Much of what remains is tattered, brittle, and drained of color. A melancholy catalog.

Oh dear! What to do to keep the spirits up? There will be your faithful old house plants, if you brought them indoors before that dramatic cold snap.

In this hemisphere many plants welcome a season of rest, so water sparingly at first, and don't over stimulate with plant food. After a few weeks of rest they'll be ready to come back with fresh new growth. (The gardener, too, perhaps?)

Some of the container bulbs you planted in September-October may be showing green shoots already, and should be brought in to light and warmth.

In my case, no indoor bulb planting this year, but I know where I can get some, with all that work done for me. I've been given a beautiful glass bowl, with half a dozen "paperwhites" resting atop some lovely smooth river stones, their generous roots clearly visible (a see-through garden.) These narcissus, "forced" as they have been, will not bloom a second year, but what beauty they afford in the last months of this year.

Indoor plants make wonderful gifts, and with a little care can get you through these days when it "gets late earlier." Enjoy them!



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Finance Committee Report

Summary of Activity July to November 2002

Fiscal Year 2003 is nearly half gone. It seems as if we have been holding our breath to see if the State's finances would get any better and whether or not the elections would provide some direction for the future and how the U.S. Congress and the United Nations would act on the Iraq problem. The outside world does affect just about every hamlet in the country because they are dependent on funding support from State and Federal sources for schools and capital projects. Now that some decisions have been made we look forward with hope for the best.

This past year, FY02, Heath experienced a tax rate of \$24.20, one of the highest if not the highest in the State. However, the rate could have been in the \$26 range if it were not for the Assessors' revaluation, which increased the tax base thereby reducing the tax rate. Thus, the actual tax burden on the Town increased approximately 33% over the \$19.65 rate for FY01. This situation occurred primarily because of the calculations of the Ed Reform Act that cost Heath over \$100,000 in Excess Debt credit for which we were unable to obtain Foundation Reserve support, a.k.a. Pothole money. For several years we had been able to obtain Pothole money, but for FY02 the State pleaded poverty and could not make such awards. Consequently, Heath experienced a sort of double whammy with a much higher school assessment plus the loss of Pothole money from its budget. For FY03, however, the Department of Education altered (finally after ten years) the calculation procedures so that all towns in a district are treated similarly with regard to Net School Spending, which in turn affects Excess Debt. We hope/expect the calculations for school assessments will stabilize at least as regards the impact of Ed Reform. This change plus some reductions in the budget combined with an increase in the Town's property valuation, some of which was due to an increase in the power company's valuation, suggests we may expect a tax rate in the \$20 range. The Assessors are currently working on setting the tax rate. We expect also an improved Free Cash position for this year due, in part, to stricter accounting procedures.

Since July 1 the Finance Committee has met five times and attended two Special Town Meetings (STM). The first STM dealt with several transfers between accounts and approved the transfer of money from Free Cash to accounts in deficit. It also approved the transfer of \$23,000 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Account. The second STM added \$11,950 to the FY03 budget for such items as increases in Health Care and Property/Casualty Insurance and \$4,000 for the Pre-School Program at the Heath School due primarily to less money from the State for this program. The increase in appropriations represents about \$.23 per \$1000 valuation in taxes. Also at this STM, action was taken to facilitate obtaining grant funds for major work that has to be done on the Community Hall.

All but one of the FinCom meetings have included sessions with the Selectboard on issues that affect the Town's finances such as monitoring flood money and projects, closing of the Three-Town Dump, early retirement, status of a Health Clinic, and the Community Hall project. The Town has many capital issues - replacement of Fire Department and Highway Department equipment and maintaining facilities and/or considering the construction of new facilities. There is a need for some good cost benefit analysis of these capital issues. FinCom member David Cote continues to help us with Fire Department and Highway Department matters, Ned Wolf is our representative to the Mohawk School District, and Dave Howland chairs the FinCom and recently was appointed as an At-Large member of the Franklin Regional Planning Board.

Charlene Churchill, who has a business and accounting background, focuses on budget matters. She recently resolved a Horse Shed question/issue that has been on the books for twenty years and, of course, the Sheds themselves go back many, many years. They were located on a piece of town land of about 9600 square feet between the Clarks' place and the Stone Cottage on West Main Street.

Money was put in trust to pay those owners of Sheds that could not be located when taken by Eminent Domain back in 1980. The Selectboard voted to agree to pay said owners if there should ever be a request for reimbursement thereby clearing the deeds of any liens. (There have been no takers!) The amount of money involved, which will be transferred to the General Fund, is not large - \$300.27.

Finally, we are pleased to report that the vacancy on the FinCom has been filled with the appointment of Budge Litchfield. The FinCom and the Selectboard voted jointly for his appointment; the position is subject to the election process next spring. Budge is a teacher at the Sanderson School in Ashfield and serves on the Fire Department. His background in education plus his intimate knowledge of the history of the Heath School is a plus factor for the Town.

~ David F. Howland



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The Way It Is In The Country

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

A Tribute To Model AA Ford Trucks

By Carroll Stowe

As a child growing up on a working farm in western Colrain, I was to learn of the lasting usefulness of a ton and a half truck of Ford manufacture. Our truck came to the farm in 1930. Its main job was to be hauling apples to the freight yard in Shelburne Falls. These plans were dashed very badly by a killing hard freeze in that time era.

This short wheel base truck had a great gear ratio for doing the work it was intended for and forty five miles per hour was really forcing it. These 40 horsepower, four cylinder power plants turned out more torque than the rear end could stand. It wasn't necessary to have 200 plus horse-power to tear up the gear works. These old small four-cylinder engines could do it, no problem.

I spent many hours in our old Model A dump truck hauling stable cleanings, hay, cord wood, long-bundled corn, gravel, and whatever needed to be hauled.

In the late 1940s and early 50s, we qualified for the Government Feed Program with surplus potatoes. The potatoes were sold to the Federal Government for a support price and then sold to farmers for ten cents per hundred weight. With this deal in effect, our old truck got a lot of exercise hauling from various potato farms. These potatoes were shipped in burlap bags and blue vegetable dye was sprayed on the bags to prevent other use of them. Two and a half ton of potatoes was a comfortable load for our dump truck. That was 50 bags. A lot of these spuds were just the right size for a cow not to have to chew them. Often a small potato would get in the proper position to choke a cow. We became rather handy at working a potato out of a cow's windpipe. We later were able to get a small root cutter that we used to create smaller potato pieces so that choking was no longer a problem.

These old smaller dump trucks were a great help opening up a cornfield when getting ready to chop corn for silage. Ours was geared very nicely to work at tractor speeds beside the chopper. There wasn't a lot of room on the edge of some fields and these old units didn't need a lot of space. There's not ink and paper enough to tell of all the good this older iron did.

I've written this remembrance to lead up to a great request that was made of me a bit ago. A neighbor who has property here on Sumner Stetson Road asked me if I could schedule my time to drive a newly acquired 1931 A Model Ford truck from Heath Center to upper Sumner Stetson Road. I was very honored to perform this task. This unit has the same wheelbase and gear ratio as our old 1930 truck. It has just over 20,000 miles on the odometer. By the looks of its condition, it never hauled much stable cleanings, firewood, surplus potatoes, or corn silage. It will be good to see this vintage Ford plying the Heath highways. Each time I am able to watch this old unit passing, I can recall days long past that were hard work and satisfying. It saddens me to think of the demise of our faithful old Model A dump truck. We should have preserved her, but at that time, little thought was given to saving an old soldier like that.

One lasting memory of our old servant was the day after the 1938 flood and hurricane I was allowed to go with dad to take the milk out of the covered bridge at Lyonsville to meet the large milk truck. The milk cans were rolled across the bridge from one end to the other. That day we found the western end of the approach ramp gone. To the eyes of a seven year-old the devastation caused by the wind and high water was some impressive. The whole area could have gotten along very nicely without that massive destruction! Our old truck, fitted with a dump body, worked at helping repair damage in our part of town. Life was difficult in the days and months after the flood but very interesting.

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Traditional Family Favorites



The recipes in this issue are from members of the *Herald* staff: Dianne Cerone's traditional French Meat Stuffing; Deborah Phillips' mother's Date Nut Bread, and Lea Banks Bohrer's fruits-of-the-season Apple-Cranbury Crisp. With them come our best wishes for heart and body warming holiday feasts in Heath households!

French Meat Stuffing

This recipe has been around as long as I have. Every turkey was stuffed with this meat dressing. The smell of it is ingrained in my memory bringing forth pictures from my memory's scrapbook. Memere in charge and everyone doing some little part in preparation for the best time of the year.

I make the stuffing ahead of time so that it is cold when it is time to stuff the turkey. Because this freezes well, I like to make a BIG batch so as to have plenty for French Meat Pie later.

2 pounds of ground pork	1 10 ounce glass of water
1 pound of ground beef	1 teaspoon salt or to taste
1 or 2 onions, chopped	1/2 teaspoon pepper or to taste
2/3 cup chopped celery	1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
2-5 potatoes, diced	or to taste
(garlic, optional)	1/4 teaspoon cinnamon or to taste

Saute onions with celery. Add meat and cook, stirring often to break up meat. Add potatoes, water, and seasonings, cooking slowly for at least 1 and 1/2 hours or until water is absorbed. Potatoes should be encouraged to crumble into very small pieces, using a potato masher if needed. Taste and adjust seasonings to your palate.

Apple-Cranberry Crisp

This makes excellent use of the apples so plentiful in our midst. It is an adapted recipe from *Bon Appetit* that over the years has become a Bohrer family holiday favorite.

1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1/3 cup quick oats
1/3 cup flour
3 teaspoons cinnamon
1 teaspoon nutmeg
1/2 cup (1 stick) chilled butter
1/2 cup pecan halves

2 pounds of Granny Smith (or comparable) apples, peeled, cored, thinly sliced.
3/4 cup fresh cranberries or frozen, unthawed
1/4 cup sugar

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Butter an 8"x 8" square pan. Mix brown sugar, oats, flour, 2 teaspoons cinnamon and 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg in food processor using pulse turns. Add butter, cut into pieces, and process until chopped small. Add pecans. Process until moist clumps form. Toss apples, cranberries, 1/4 cup sugar, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, and 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg in separate bowl to blend. Transfer apple mixture to baking dish. Sprinkle topping over. Bake for about 50 minutes until apples are tender, filling is bubbly, and topping is crisp. Serve warm with whipped cream or ice cream or both! 8 servings.

For those without a food processor, just mix the butter in with the first five ingredients using two knives or a pastry cutter. Chop pecans fine and mix in with a wooden spoon or hands.

Betty's Date Nut Bread

Here is a traditional favorite from our family, my mom's date nut bread. Every Christmas I would help my mother in the kitchen to bake breads and cookies to share, give and eat! I am not exactly regaled for my culinary expertise and my middle name isn't Julia, but I do continue the tradition of baking and giving away date nut breads for the holidays. I remember last year thinking that the folks at the bank and post office must groan when I give them the same thing every year and that maybe this gift is in the category of the much-derided fruitcake. Just when I thought I should come up with something else, Sally at the bank asked for the recipe. All right, I knew it was a good one! Hope you like it.

3/4 cup chopped nuts	3/4 cup boiling water
1 cup pitted dates, chopped	2 eggs
1 1/2 teaspoon baking soda	1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 teaspoon salt	1 cup granulated sugar
3 tablespoons butter	1 1/2 cup sifted flour

Place first four ingredients in small bowl and mix lightly with fork. Add butter (cut into one teaspoon squares) and pour water over all. Let stand (covered) for 20 minutes. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, beat eggs with fork, add vanilla, then add sugar, mix in flour and date mix. Pour into greased and floured bread pan. Bake in a 350 degree oven for one hour.



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State Election 2002

Tuesday, November 5, was a day of encouragement for myself, all the election workers, and many of the voters. We were all excited to be back in the Community Hall. With all the room there is in the dining area, there was plenty of room for folks to vote and then linger awhile and visit, if they so desired.

Voter turnout was high with 294 ballots cast. This was 57% of the 515 registered voters. It seems that between the governor's position being wide open and the controversial ballot questions, Heath people showed their concern that day at the polls.

Let's recap some of the results from the ballot tallies. If our town had determined the outcome, Massachusetts would have O'Brien for Governor with 143 votes, Kerry for Senator in Congress with 174 votes, and Olver as Representative in Congress with 197 votes. Senator in General Court went to Nuciforo with 194 votes.

Question 1, elimination of state personal income tax, brought in 96 votes in favor and 193 opposed. On question 2 the vote was 143 in favor of English language classrooms and 142 opposed. Even the newspaper staff that I called on election night were surprised at the close outcome on this question. The non-binding Question 3, which regarded using taxpayer money to fund political campaigns, had a close outcome also with 131 votes in favor and 155 opposed.

Due to the willingness of many, all the ballots were counted and tallied by 9:30 p.m.

It is with deep appreciation that I extend a "thank you" to the election workers, constables, and ballot counters who worked on November 5. Everyone's diligence and dedication to a fair election in Heath made the day run smoothly and made my job easier.

~ Hilma Sumner, Town Clerk

Yankee Community Advisory Board

A few years ago I was appointed to the Community Advisory Board by the Heath Selectboard. The committee is made up of a selectboard-appointed member from each of the towns surrounding the Yankee Rowe Atomic Plant.

We have been monitoring the decommissioning of the facility with meetings and actual tours of the plant, noting especially the progress in the spent-rod-dry cast storage now going on at the site. I have attended all the meetings and tours to protect the people of Heath. I will be participating in the C.A.B. until sometime next year.

~ Jack Cable

Community Hall Committee

The hall is now up and running! It wasn't until the hall was closed did we realize how important it was to the community. The Hall Committee is really thankful for the community's support in allocating the monies necessary to complete the structural repairs. If all goes well, the town will receive a grant for further improvements. We are fortunate in having this hall. There aren't too many towns in the area that do!

~ Val Kaempfer
Hall Committee

Assessors Report

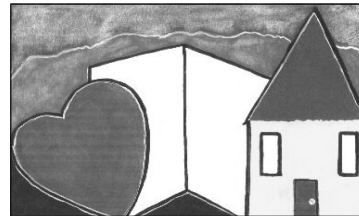
This is the first year the town has had quarterly tax bills. We should have the tax rate set and bills sent to you by the end of December. The taxes will be due **February 1**.

The December/January bill will be the bill based on the new values which reflect any new construction or revisions. All taxpayers should review the values and buildings on the bill. If there are any errors, a request for abatement must be filed within 30 days. Abatement forms are available at the assessors' room. There are also forms banging on the door in a manila envelope at all times.

Please explain what is wrong or why you believe you are being overcharged. We will review all questions at our meetings and send you a form with any monetary changes. If you wait to file near the due date, **February 1**, you should pay the full amount. If warranted, you will get a check for any overpayment. If you pay late, you will be liable for not only the tax bill but interest and penalties.

A reminder to seniors - The over-seventy forms are due **December 15**. As soon as the bills are printed, I will send you the reduced amount owing on the appropriate form, provided you have filed your senior form with us.

~ Don Dekker



The Friends of the Heath School Library

The Friends of the Heath School Library wish to extend our thanks to all who supported our Book

Fair that was held in conjunction with the World Eye Book Shop of Greenfield at Heath School on Thursday, November 14. The shop provided us with a wonderful, high quality selection of books for all ages.

During the day, the classes attended one by one. Each child was given a \$3.00 voucher, thanks to the contributions from individuals and the Heath Ladies Aid, the school PTP and teachers and staff, and the A-J Cycle Shop.

We were pleased by the enthusiasm evidenced by the students, the faculty, parents, and other community members. All proceeds realized will go to purchase books for the Heath School Library.

Special and heartfelt thanks to John Musacchio for his invaluable help in picking up and returning the books. If you see him, ask him to recount his harrowing journey bringing the books to the school Wednesday night!

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