



**Emily Rose in her Little Sutton Studio**  
The Berkshire Eagle, Tuesday, May 31, 1983

Photo by: Walter Scott

## ***Let's Look Back In LGC History....***

### ***The Herb Associates***

"....with thanks and a bouquet to each of you, of roses for love, angelica for inspiration, borage for courage, and burnet for a merry heart." Emily Rose from a letter to the Herb Associates dated November, 1958 In 2005, Julie McCarthy and I did a photo essay about the Herb Associates called, *Ahead of Their Thyme*, with portraits and interviews with two of the founding members, Gertrude Burdsall and

Emily Rose. When I interviewed Gertrude, she fed me her "famous" coffee cake and iced lemon verbena tea and a rich helping of history about The Herb Associates, one of the oldest associations of its kind in the country. Emily was the one who named the group and suggested selling herb products to raise money. The founders were enterprising at a time when women did not often assert themselves in the world of commerce. But they knew they had something to sell. As Emily Rose said in her interview, they had what the public wanted, the "real" thing. Their

products are "lavished with care by practiced hands," as Gertrude observed. In addition to picking, drying and stripping the herbs, they tested everything they made. "It became a business," Emily told me, and they had to run it as one. Still it did not lose the joyful inspiration that brought "the business" into existence. "It was do-it-yourself," she said "but fun!" The pleasure and self-starter energy continues to this day. As Emily declared, "it adds to one's glamour to be an Herb Associate!"

Michelle Gillett